



VAPOR TENSION

In this Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 file photo, a woman takes a puff from a cannabis vape pen in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

U.S. health officials report new vaping deaths, repeat warning

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday again urged people to stop vaping until they figure out why some are coming down with serious breathing illnesses.

Officials have identified about 450 possible cases, including as many as five deaths, in 33 states. The count includes newly reported deaths in California, Indiana and Minnesota. No single vaping device, liquid or ingredient has been tied to all the illnesses, officials said.

Many of the sickened — but not all — were people who said they had been vaping THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high. Many are teens.

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American Airlines mechanic accused of sabotaging flight

By **DAVID KOENIG** and
CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — An American Airlines mechanic charged with sabotaging a plane because he was upset over stalled labor contract negotiations was fired from another airline several years ago and briefly had his mechanic's license suspended, according to court documents.

Abdul-Majeed Marouf Ahmed Alani appeared in federal court in Miami on Friday on a charge of willfully damaging or disabling a plane. Federal investigators say he admitted to tampering with a part that provides vital flight information to pilots.

The pilots aborted the July 17 flight before takeoff in Miami. Alani, 60, was arrested Thursday. He had worked for American since 1988 but was suspended after his arrest.

Court records from a lawsuit in California indicate that for some years, Alani worked both for American and Alaska Airlines until Alaska fired him in 2008 af-



In this April 24, 2019, photo, American Airlines aircraft are shown parked at their gates at Miami International Airport in Miami.

ter several errors including failing to verify that repairs were working and installing the wrong battery on a plane. The Federal Aviation Administration suspended his mechanic's certificate for 30 days, according to court documents.

Alani, who was born in Iraq and became a U.S. citizen

in 1992, sued Alaska Airlines for discrimination based on national origin. A judge dismissed the lawsuit for lack of evidence.

The lawsuit and Alani's firing by Alaska were first reported by Business Insider. In Miami on Friday, Alani wore shackles and tan jail clothes as he spoke to Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan through an Arabic interpreter. Mostly, he answered basic questions about his assets and whether he could afford a lawyer. The judge appointed a public defender and scheduled a bond hearing for next Wednesday and an arraignment hearing on Sept. 20.

According to American, Alani is proficient in English. Nothing in the criminal complaint against Alani suggests any link to terrorism, and prosecutors did not indicate that any such charges are pending.

When interviewed Thursday by investigators, "Alani stated that his intention was not to cause harm to the aircraft or its passengers," according to the affidavit by Jose A. Ruiz, a federal air marshal who serves on an FBI terrorism task force. Alani explained that stalled contract negotiations between American Airlines and the mechanics' unions were hurting him financially — he said in court that he

has two cars but few other assets besides property in the Sarasota, Florida, area worth about \$5,500.

Alani said he tampered with the plane "to cause a delay or have the flight canceled in anticipation of obtaining overtime work," Ruiz wrote.

The incident occurred before an American Airlines Boeing 737 was scheduled to fly from Miami to Nassau in the Bahamas with 150 people on board. As the pilots powered up the plane at Miami International Airport, they saw an error message for a system that tracks speed, nose direction and other critical flight information and aborted the takeoff.

When mechanics examined the plane, they found a piece of foam glued inside a navigation system part called an air data module. Video from an American Airlines surveillance camera captured a person who drove up to the plane, got out and spent seven minutes working around the compartment under the cockpit that contains the navigation system, according to the affidavit.

The person was later identified by co-workers as Alani, in part by his distinctive limp, the affidavit said.

Aviation experts said it was unlikely that Alani's actions

would put passengers at risk. Modern jets have several devices called pitot tubes and computers that process information about speed, heading, nose angle, altitude and other information. They also have systems that warn pilots when the information may be faulty — as apparently happened on the Miami plane.

John Hansman, an aeronautics professor at MIT, said pilots would notice the absence of an airspeed reading or conflicting readings and abort the takeoff, as the American pilots did.

"There are other ways to mess with the air data computer which are more subtle," Hansman said. "Then you would not have seen the problem until you get into flight."

American sued the unions, accusing them of conducting an illegal work slowdown that caused hundreds of canceled flights. Last month a federal judge in Texas ruled in American's favor and ordered mechanics to stop interfering in the airline's operations. On Friday, union officials distanced themselves from Alani.

"The Transport Workers Union is shocked by the reported allegations of airplane sabotage by an employee," TWU President John Samuelson said in a statement. "If these allegations of sabotage are true, they are outrageous and indefensible, and we fully condemn such actions."

In a statement, American Airlines said it cooperated fully with the investigation "and we are taking this matter very seriously." The Fort Worth, Texas-based airline said the plane was taken out of service after the July incident and repaired and inspected before it was allowed to fly again.

In a message to employees, David Seymour, American's senior vice president of operations, said the airline works with authorities and other experts to improve safety procedures. He said American maintains full trust and confidence in its employees. □

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U.S. health officials report new vaping deaths, repeat warning

Continued from Front

Health officials have only been counting certain lung illnesses in which the person had vaped within three months. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the body apparently reacting to a caustic substance that someone breathed in. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain and vomiting. The illnesses have all surfaced this year, and the number has been growing quickly in the last month as more states have begun investigations. A week ago, U.S. officials pegged the number at 215 possible cases in 25 states.

It's unclear whether such illnesses were happening before this year.

"We're all wondering if this is new or just newly recognized," Dr. Dana Meaney-Delman of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters Friday. An Illinois health official, Dr. Jennifer Layden, said officials there don't know when such illnesses first began, but she said there has been a marked increase since spring.

Deaths previously were reported in Illinois and Oregon.

Indiana officials said the person who died there was an adult, but they didn't say when it happened or release other details. Health officials in Los Angeles said they were investigating a vaping death as well. And Minnesota health officials said that state's first known vaping-related death was

a person over 65 years with a history of lung problems who had vaped illicit THC products and died in August.

Recent attention has been focused on devices, liquids, refill pods and cartridges that are not sold in stores.

New York state has focused its investigation on an ingredient called Vitamin E acetate, which has been used to thicken marijuana vape juice but is considered dangerous if heated and inhaled. State investigators have found the substance in 13 cartridges collected from eight patients. In several cases, the ingredient made up more than half of the liquid in the cartridge. CDC officials said they are looking at several ingredients, including Vitamin E acetate. But Meaney-Delman added that no single factor has been seen in every case.

Also Friday, the New England Journal of Medicine released a series of articles that give medical details about cases reported in Illinois, Wisconsin and Utah. An article on 53 illnesses in Illinois and Wisconsin noted that nearly one-fifth of the cases were people who said they vaped nicotine and not anything that contained THC or CBD oil.

For that reason, doctors and health officials are continuing to suggest people stay away from all vaping products until the investigation establishes exactly what's at the root of the illnesses.

Meaney-Delman said avoiding vaping is "the primary means of preventing



Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health walks past a poster reading: "Progress Erased: Flavored Tobacco and the e-cigarette epidemic among youth," as the county announce the first known death associated with e-cigarette vaping at a news conference in Los Angeles Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

this severe lung disease." It's not yet clear what impact the recent illnesses are having on vaping rates, but some health officials are hoping more Americans will become wary. There's been a split among public health experts about the value of vaping nicotine. Some argue e-cigarettes are not as lethal as conventional cigarettes and can be a valuable aide to smokers trying to kick the habit.

But others say studies have not established that adult

smokers who try vaping end up quitting smoking long term. And they fear that kids who might never have picked up cigarettes are taking up vaping. The National Association of County and City Health Officials "has long been cautious about endorsing e-cigarettes even before the recent spate of illnesses, because little scientific evidence exists to show that e-cigarettes and other nicotine delivery devices are effective cessation devices," spokeswoman

Adriane Casalotti said in a statement.

The states reporting vaping-related lung illnesses to the CDC are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. □

Maine to allow ranked votes in general presidential election

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Maine moved ahead Friday with plans to become the first state to allow voters to rank candidates in a general presidential election.

Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat, said she'll allow a bill to become law in January without her signature. The legislation requires ranked choice voting in presiden-

tial elections and primaries.

Ranked voting won't be used in a planned presidential primary in March 2020, Mills' office said.

The bill won't go into effect until 90 days after the Legislature is set to adjourn in April.

But future presidential primaries would use ranked choice voting, according to the governor's office.

Maine voters in 2016 approved ranked voting, but



In this Nov. 12, 2018 file photo, ballots are prepared for tabulation in Augusta, Maine, in the Second Congressional District's House election, the first congressional race in American history to be decided by the ranked-choice voting method.

Associated Press

the system was limited to federal races and primaries.

Under the system, voters rank three or more candidates on a ballot in order of preference. If no candidate gets more than 50%, the last-place candidate is eliminated.

The second-choice votes of everyone who ranked that candidate first are allocated until someone receives over 50%.

Supporters of the system who have been trying to spread it to more states cheered the expansion Friday. Such advocates hope the law could boost the influence of an independent and third-party presidential candidate in Maine, one of two states that split their electoral votes, and sway the outcome in a tight race.

About two dozen cities — including Cambridge, Massachusetts, and St. Paul, Minnesota — allow the use of ranked choice voting in certain elections, according to advocacy group FairVote.

The group says at least a half dozen cities are set to use the system in upcoming elections, while several state Democratic parties, such as in Kansas, plan to use ranked voting in presidential primaries next spring.

"Now Mainers have the

option to vote freely for an independent or third-party presidential candidate that best speaks to them and still indicate a backup choice between the major-party candidates," FairVote president and CEO Rob Richie said.

David Farmer, a spokesperson for The Committee for Ranked Choice Voting, said it's "too bad" that Mills didn't sign the bill in to law so voters could rank candidates in the crowded March primary.

The voting method has drawn criticism from opponents who argue the system is too confusing and violates the U.S. Constitution. Detractors say it's unfair that a candidate who failed to get the most first-place votes can end up winning.

"We will not give up on this issue," said the Maine Heritage Policy Center in a Facebook post Friday.

Criticism of ranked choice voting has at times fallen along party lines in Maine, where a Republican congressman waged an unsuccessful legal battle last year against the November election of his Democratic opponent under Maine's then-new voting system.

In December, U.S. District Judge Lance Walker said that critics can question the wisdom of ranked-choice voting, but that such criti-

cism "falls short of constitutional impropriety."

The governor said Friday that ranking choice voting can empower voters and encourage civility.

But she also expressed financial and logistical concerns about the legislation, which she said lacked funding and raised questions about how it could affect the selection of convention delegates.

The bill says using ranked choice voting in presidential races would prove a "minor cost increase." Democratic Secretary of State Matt Dunlap has estimated a ranked voting primary could cost \$100,000.

"By not signing this bill now, I am giving the Legislature an opportunity to appropriate funds and to take any other appropriate action in the second regular session to fully implement ranked-choice voting in all aspects of presidential elections as the Legislature sees fit," Mills said.

Mills said that even without the bill, parties could still use "ranked-choice voting or some similar process" when selecting delegates. Maine is set to switch from presidential caucuses to a presidential primary next March. As the 2020 presidential primary season nears, an increasingly small handful of states still have caucuses. □

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Mayor charged with taking bribes to help pot businesses

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A young Massachusetts mayor's tortuous tenure took another strange turn Friday when he was arrested on charges that he conspired to extort hundreds of thousands of dollars from companies seeking to operate marijuana businesses.

Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, who became the old mill city's youngest mayor when he was elected in 2015 at age 23, brazenly accepted cash bribes in exchange for issuing official letters needed to obtain a license to set up a pot business, authorities alleged.

At least four business owners paid a total of \$600,000 in bribes to the mayor, and he used the money to support a lavish lifestyle and cover mounting legal bills, they said.

"Without hesitation, Mayor Correia was extorting marijuana vendor after marijuana vendor," U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said at a news conference. "It's striking the lengths he went to get the money, and the seeming indifference with how overt his activities were."

In one instance, Lelling said, Correia walked into a vendor's office and simply asked for \$250,000 to issue one of the letters. Another time, Correia was paid \$75,000 in cash while sitting in the backseat of a car. He promptly handed over a signed letter, Lelling said. Correia pleaded not guilty Friday to the charges, which include bribery, extortion, wire fraud and filing false tax returns. A judge ordered him to post \$25,000 of a \$250,000 bond, and his travel was restricted to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

"I'm not guilty of these charges. I've done nothing but good for the great city of Fall River," Correia said outside the courthouse. "And I'm going to continue to do great things for the city."

His lawyer, Kevin Reddington, said the indictment "reads like a bad John

Grisham novel" and suggested the arrest was politically motivated.

"This is a case where there's no corroboration, no physical evidence, no legitimate witness," Reddington said. "The timing of this indictment is also troubling." Correia is running in the city's preliminary election on Sept. 17. Once a rising political star, the Democrat has already survived a bizarre March election in which he was recalled by

ernment issues the letters, which state they've verified the business is in a permissible zoning district.

Correia has issued at least 14 of the letters, including two for his current girlfriend's brother, authorities said. Lelling's office declined to say whether it's alleging illegal activity in issuing of the letters to the brother.

State Inspector General Glenn Cunha said he hopes Correia's indictment



Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia speaks beside his attorney Kevin Reddington outside the federal courthouse, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, in Boston, after his appearance on bribery, extortion and fraud charges. Correia pleaded not guilty.

Associated Press

voters and then promptly reelected the same night. Correia was arrested in October on charges he defrauded investors in a smartphone app he was developing.

Prosecutors say he used much of the \$360,000 to pay for jewelry, designer clothing, a Mercedes and to further his political career.

Correia has pleaded not guilty to those 13 counts. His trial is currently slated to start Feb. 24.

The latest investigation highlights the potential for abuse in Massachusetts' nascent retail marijuana industry, which launched in earnest last November with the opening of the first retail storefronts, authorities said Friday.

Under state law, a so-called non-opposition letter is required to become a licensed marijuana shop. The head of the local gov-

leads marijuana regulators to consider additional safeguards.

Friday's indictment also details other accusations against Correia.

Authorities say the now-27-year-old mayor received cash and a Rolex watch from a property owner seeking city approvals. They also say he had his chief of staff, who also faces federal charges, give him half of her \$78,780 salary in return for allowing her to keep her city job.

Genoveva Andrade, a 48-year-old Somerset resident, made her initial appearance Friday and wasn't required to enter a plea on extortion, theft and bribery charges.

Her lawyer declined to comment afterward.

Three other associates are also charged in the marijuana extortion scheme and will appear in court later. □



In this Sept. 30, 2016, file photo, a marijuana bud is seen before harvesting at a rural area near Corvallis, Ore.

Associated Press

Federal judge: Oregon pot racketeering lawsuit can proceed

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A judge has ruled that a racketeering lawsuit brought by a vineyard against a neighboring marijuana operation can go forward despite attempts to have it dismissed — a ruling that could increase the odds for vineyards and other agricultural businesses that have fought the presence of cannabis farms in their backyards with limited success.

U.S. District Court Judge Anna J. Brown found in the Aug. 27 ruling that there was enough evidence the plaintiff, Momtazi Vineyard, had suffered a financial loss from the neighboring marijuana operation to take the case to trial. At least two previous racketeering lawsuits filed in Oregon over the smell from marijuana farms have been dismissed, making this ruling notable, said Jesse Mondry, an attorney at the law firm Harris Bricken, which specializes in cannabis-related legal matters. Mondry is not involved in the case.

"It changes the playing field in that the court has shown a pathway to bring racketeering claims against marijuana farms," he said. "I don't know that this is going to open the floodgates. At least they know now what they need to do so survive a motion to dismiss."

The case highlights the tension between vintners and marijuana businesses over land, water, odor and aesthetics in the fertile areas of Oregon and California where both wine grapes and state-legal cannabis flourish. The current case involves a vineyard in the heart of a federally designated viticulture area in Oregon's Yamhill County, where wine tourism is booming.

It also fits into a pattern of federal racketeering lawsuits targeting marijuana businesses.

One of the first was in Colorado, which legalized marijuana in 2012. By 2016, cannabis companies in Oregon were getting sued, said Matt Goldberg, one of the attorneys representing the defendants. □

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Dorian's floodwaters trap people in attics in North Carolina



Ocracoke Volunteer Fire Department chief Albert O'Neal, in blue shirt, boats down Sunset Drive on his way to seek out islanders stranded in their flooded homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 on Ocracoke Island, N.C.

Associated Press

By JEFFREY COLLINS and BEN FINLEY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C. (AP)

— A weakened Hurricane Dorian flooded homes on North Carolina's Outer Banks on Friday with a fury that took even storm-hardened residents by surprise, forcing people to climb into their attics. Hundreds were feared trapped by high water, and neighbors used boats to rescue one another.

Medics and other rescuers rushed to Ocracoke Island — accessible only by boat or air — to reach those who made the mistake of defying mandatory evacuation orders along the 200-mile (320-kilometer) ribbon of low-lying islands.

"We are flooding like crazy," Ocracoke Island bookshop owner Leslie Lanier texted. "I have been here 32 years and not seen this." Its winds down to 90 mph (145 kph), Dorian howled over the Outer Banks as

a far weaker storm than the brute that wreaked havoc on the Bahamas at the start of the week. Just when it looked as if its run up the Southeast coast was coming to a relatively quiet end, the Category 1 hurricane sent seawater surging over neighborhoods, flooding the first floors of many homes, even ones on stilts. "There is significant concern about hundreds of people trapped on Ocracoke Island," Gov. Roy Cooper said.

Over and over, longtime residents said that they had never seen flooding so bad, and that places in their homes that had never flooded before were inundated.

"We were all on social media laughing about how we'd done well and there was really no flooding at all, just rain, typical rain," Steve Harris, who has lived on Ocracoke Island for most of the last 19 years. And then, "the wall of water just

came rushing through the island."

"It just started looking like a bathtub, very quickly," said Harris, who was safe in his third-floor condo. "We went from almost no water to 4 to 6 feet in a matter of minutes."

The Coast Guard began landing local law enforcement officers on the island via helicopter and airlifting out the sick, the elderly or others in distress, Hyde County authorities said. National Guard helicopters also flew supplies and a rescue team in. Residents were told to get to the highest point in their homes in the meantime.

"Several people were rescued from their upper floors or attics by boat by good Samaritans," Ocracoke Island restaurant owner Jason Wells said in a text message.

In Buxton on Hatteras Island, close to where Dorian blew ashore, Radio Hatteras volunteer Mary Helen

Goodloe-Murphy said that people were calling in to report that "houses are shaking like crazy" and that "it's never been like this before."

By evening, the governor said that officials were aware of no serious injuries on the Outer Banks from the storm. One 79-year-old man was airlifted from Ocracoke Island because of a pre-existing condition, authorities said. People in need of temporary housing were being taken to a shelter on the mainland, the governor said.

"The hurricane has left behind destruction where storm surge inundated Ocracoke Island," Cooper said. "Currently the island has no electricity and many homes and buildings are still underwater."

Around midmorning, the eye of the storm came ashore at Cape Hatteras, Dorian's first landfall in the continental U.S. after a week and a half in which it

spread fear up and down the coast and kept people guessing as to where it would go.

By late afternoon, Dorian had peeled off the coastline and was finally making its exit out to sea. It is expected to remain a hurricane as it sweeps up the Eastern Seaboard through Saturday, veering far enough offshore that its hurricane-force winds are unlikely to pose any threat to land in the U.S.

Power outages had dropped by about one-third, to around 213,000 in the Carolinas and Virginia. At least four deaths in the Southeast were blamed on Dorian. All were men in Florida or North Carolina who died in falls or by electrocution while trimming trees, putting up storm shutters or otherwise getting ready for the hurricane.

As Dorian closed in, more than a quarter-million residents and visitors were ordered to evacuate the Outer Banks, which stick out from the Eastern Seaboard like the side-view mirror on a car. But many just tied down their boats, removed objects from their yards that could blow away, and hunkered down.

Dorian slammed the Bahamas at the start of the week with 185 mph (295 kph) winds, killing at least 30 people and obliterating countless homes. From there, it swept past Florida and Georgia, then side-swiped the Carolinas on Thursday, spinning off tornadoes that peeled away roofs and flipped recreational vehicles.

Still, the damage was far less than feared in many parts of the Carolinas, including historic Charleston, South Carolina, which is prone to flooding even from ordinary storms, and Wilmington, North Carolina, the state's biggest coastal city.

Joseph Pawlick went out Friday morning to rake leaves, twigs and other debris from the sidewalk outside his Wilmington home.

"I slept like a baby last night. This, thankfully, was not bad," he said. □

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Governor to take Tree of Life mezuzah to Holocaust memorials

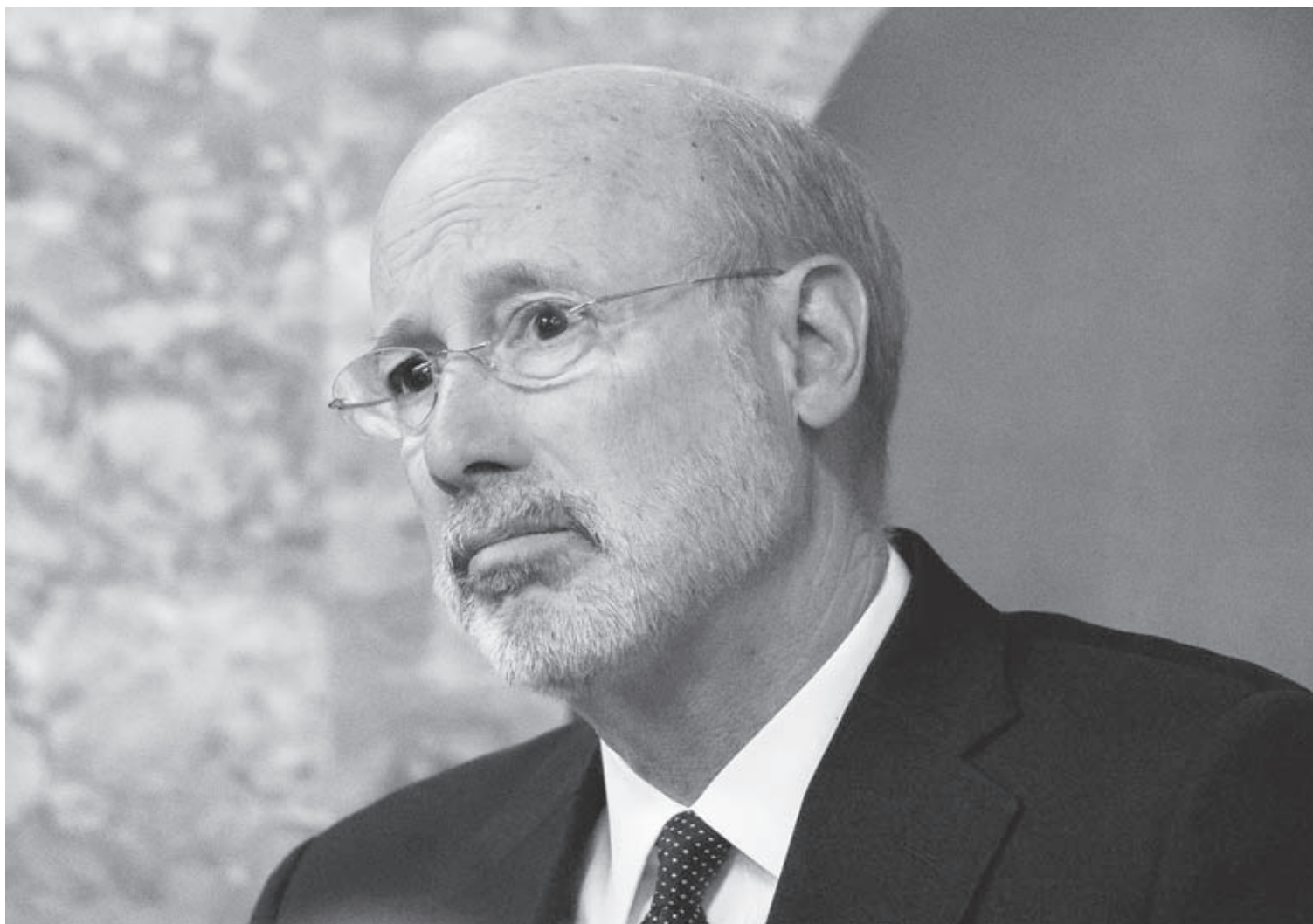
By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — When Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf visits Holocaust memorials in Lithuania and Poland, he will carry the mezuzah that was on the office door of Rabbi Jeffrey Myers when a gunman burst into Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue last year and killed 11 people.

Wolf said Friday that he called Myers ahead of his trip to the two countries, told him he planned to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp memorial in Poland and asked him how he could honor the shooting victims.

At Myers' suggestion, Wolf said he will carry the ornate mezuzah and sign the victims' names in commemoration books at the Paneriai Holocaust Memorial, in the forests outside Vilnius, where many of the Lithuanian capital's Jews were executed, and at the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial. "What I'm hoping for is that this act will bring solace, some solace to the survivors, and will remind them that we Pennsylvanians will never forget their loved ones," Wolf said at a news conference in his Capitol offices.

Mezuzahs are cases that are typically several inches long that hold a scroll of verses from the Torah and are mounted by Jews in their doorframes. Myers' mezuzah is in two pieces, snapped when police swarming the synagogue broke down the door during their rescue effort. During his trip, Wolf will visit



In this Wednesday, April 10, 2019 file photo, Gov. Tom Wolf listens as Pennsylvania lawmakers come together in an unusual joint session to commemorate the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue attack that killed 11 people last year at the state Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa.

Associated Press

about 600 Pennsylvania National Guard troops deployed in the two countries, speak to the American Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania and meet with Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda.

He also has a full slate of cultural exchange and business development meetings, he said. Wolf, a Democrat, said he plans to pay his own air travel and lodging costs, and to travel with three aides. He leaves Sunday and returns Thursday.

Pennsylvania's military partnership with Lithuania involves training and collaboration, said Anthony Carrelli, the Pennsylvania National Guard's adjutant general.

The relationship goes back 26 years to the end of the Cold War, when the U.S. Department of Defense sought to forge relationships with ex-Soviet satellites, Carrelli said. Pennsylvania troops rotate there through the year, visiting for two or three weeks, he said.

Lithuanian troops have also served alongside Pennsylvania troops 13 times in deployments to Afghanistan, Carrelli said.

Another 560 Pennsylvania troops are in Poland on a year-long mission as part of a NATO battlegroup, Carrelli said.

The U.S. attorney's office

in Pittsburgh is seeking the death penalty against 46-year-old Robert Bowers in last year's attack. Police have said Bowers expressed hatred of Jews during and after what was the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history. Bowers has pleaded not guilty and awaits trial. □

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Italy-EU honeymoon has just started, but needs to last

By **GIADA ZAMPANO**

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's new coalition government has been hailed as good news for Europe, as a more Brussels-friendly lineup replaces the populist coalition in which right-wing leader Matteo Salvini and his euro-skeptic League held considerable sway.

But unless European countries lend a strong hand to Rome on everything from budget constraints to migration policies, shifting course too abruptly could damage the coalition of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the center left Democratic Party, or PD.

Salvini's hardline stance toward Brussels still enjoys widespread support in Italy. Political analysts note the newly-installed cabinet, with moderate and pro-Europe ministers in key posts, averted what Italy's European partners perceived as a nightmare scenario: a League-dominated government which would have likely pushed Italy to a new confrontation with the European Commission over costly budget measures, just as Italy's battered economy risks facing a new recession.

The uneasy 5-Stars-PD alliance was the unexpected result of Italy's mid-summer crisis, which began when Salvini, then the powerful



Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, rings the bell that traditionally opens the meeting of the cabinet at Chigi Palace in Rome, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019.

interior minister and deputy premier, pulled the plug on the coalition hoping to trigger snap elections and win the premiership.

The new cabinet has won praise abroad, starting with U.S. President Donald Trump, who endorsed Premier Giuseppe Conte, and future European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde. It has also reassured markets, with Italy's borrowing costs easing from recent highs.

"The new government is likely to be more responsible in economic terms than either the previous one, or a cabinet led by the

League," said Luigi Scazzieri, researcher for think-tank Center for European Reform.

"While it has no appetite for fiscal tightening, and wants to change eurozone fiscal rules, it will be much less willing to pick a fight with the EU," he added.

Scazzieri noted that if Europe gives Italy more leeway on its budget — which must be submitted to the Commission by mid-October and approved by the end of the year — and help it manage migration flows, it would not only "steal the League's thunder," but also foster a more pro-European

Associated Press
stance within the 5-Stars.

The once euro-skeptic party has been gradually evolving over the past few years into a moderate political force. It has dropped its old call for a referendum on leaving the eurozone, and its new platform has converged with the PD's on the need to strengthen Italy's role in Europe while moving away from austerity measures that have hit the economy.

"Now we are strongly united over the idea that the EU has to be overhauled, not destroyed," Tiziana Beghin, head of the 5-Stars delegation in the European

Parliament, told AP.

She also stressed that the real game changer happened when, shepherd-ed by Conte, the 5-Stars backed the election of the European Commission's new head, Ursula von der Leyen, isolating the League that voted against her.

The choice of Roberto Gualtieri, chair of the European Parliament's economic affairs commission, as new economy minister, has also reassured international rating agencies and investors.

The EU is expected to provide him more wiggle room as he drafts a complex budget that needs to avert a painful and unpopular 23-billion euro (\$25 billion) sales tax hike. The VAT increase was introduced by the previous government and is set to go into effect next year unless the current government can raise the funds otherwise.

The new Italian candidate for the Commission, former premier and foreign minister Paolo Gentiloni, is also poised to get an important EU portfolio, possibly the economic affairs or the competition post, in what would be seen as the strongest endorsement to Italy from European partners.

Gentiloni met von der Leyen for one hour on Friday in Brussels, as the process to form the new EU cabinet, to be unveiled on Tuesday, still seems wide open. □

Algerians protest over plan for swift elections

By **AOMAR OUALI**

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) —

Tens of thousands of protesters piled once again onto the streets of the Algerian capital and other cities Friday with many rejecting the army chief's call for presidential elections before the end of the year. This week's pro-democracy protest, the 29th in a row, is seen as a test of the continued strength of the movement and a way to gauge the temperature of Gen. Ahmed Gaid Salah's call this week to set a date by Sept. 15 for presidential



Algerian demonstrators take to the streets in the capital to protest against the government, in Algeria, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

elections. That would mean voting would be held by

law 90 days later — in mid-December.

Algeria has been without an elected president since protesters, helped by the army chief, forced Abdelaziz Bouteflika to resign in early April.

Nationwide demonstrations started Feb. 22 to protest plans by Bouteflika, who was rarely seen in public since a 2013 stroke, to seek a fifth mandate. His administration was mired in corruption and top figures have since been imprisoned, along with leading industrialists.

Protesters now seek a democratic government and want a say in how to

achieve that goal. Many opposition politicians are withholding judgment on Gaid Salah's call for quick elections while others fear that he is seeking a return of a system they reject.

In the absence of an elected president, Gaid Salah has positioned himself as the country's main authority figure, and sends out messages to Algerians via his numerous speeches to soldiers during visits to barracks. Many Algerians want a transition period to work out how to proceed, while others want elections but with conditions. □



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Bosnia's 1st LGBT parade defies threats, urges tolerance

By ELDAR EMRIC
Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnia's embattled LGBT community will defy threats of violence to hold the Balkan country's first ever pride parade this weekend and appeal for tolerance and unity in a society torn by war-era divisions and gripped by poverty.

The event, dubbed 'Ima Izac!', which roughly translates 'Coming out,' will be held in Sarajevo on Sunday under tight security to stave off possible attacks by extremist groups, which in the past have disrupted similar gatherings.

Sarajevo is the last of the Balkan capitals to schedule a pride march after neighboring countries moved to improve LGBT — lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender — rights as part of an effort to modernize and become members of the European Union.

Even so, the backlash against the parade has been considerable in this deeply conservative nation, which has entrenched



In this Thursday, Sept. 24, 2008 file photo, Bosnian police officers stand guard at the entrance to Sarajevo's Art Academy, as people protest against Bosnia's first gay festival, which is being held at the academy, in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

ethnic divisions and nationalist sentiments that fueled the 1992-95 conflict and are still holding Bosnia back.

"We live in a society that has no space for dialogue," said Branko Culibrk, one of the activists behind the march. "We want to open a debate that will shake up

society and create room for discussion."

The organizers — more than a dozen activists from all sides of Bosnia's ethnic divide — have received support from many prominent figures in Bosnia, fellow activists in the region and from U.S. and EU officials in the country who have prom-

ised to take part.

But fears of violence are high after LGBT festivals in Sarajevo were attacked by radical Islamists and hooligans in 2008 and 2014, injuring several people. Opponents are planning two gatherings this weekend, and Sarajevo police have brought in reinforcements.

Associated Press

Though any form of discrimination is banned by law, gay people in Bosnia face widespread harassment and hate attacks that are rarely prosecuted. Culibrk, the activist, claimed the discrimination includes preventing gays from donating blood in hospitals.

Another activist, Nera Mesinovic, said she was forced to leave Bosnia in order to marry her lesbian partner. Even more devastating, she said, was that upon their return the couple could not show affection in public in Sarajevo.

"We were attacked in the center of the city. This happens all the time, every day," said Mesinovic. "I came back and all of a sudden I cannot hold my partner's hand, we cannot kiss in the street."

While such incidents and anti-gay sentiment are reported in all the Balkans' predominantly patriarchal societies, there also have been changes: Serbia has a lesbian prime minister, and Montenegro is considering allowing same-sex partnerships. □

Group: We warned Germany of Russia threats to slain Georgian

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A group promoting ties between Germany and the Caucasus says it warned German authorities years ago about Russian threats against a Georgian man who was shot dead in broad daylight in the heart of Berlin last month.

The German-Caucasian Society on Friday provided The Associated Press with a letter addressed to a senior official at Germany's migration office dated Jan. 13, 2017, stating that Zelimkhan Khangoshvili's life was in danger and asking

for him to receive special protection. The group said Khangoshvili, a Georgian citizen of Chechen ethnicity who fought against Russian troops in Chechnya, survived multiple assassination attempts and continued to receive threats after fleeing to Germany.

In his letter, the group's chairman Ekkehard Maass called for the 40-year-old to receive "special protection and not to be sent to where the long arm of Putin can reach him."

According to German and international news outlets a 48-year-old Russian

man arrested over the killing had links to organized crime in Russia. Weekly Focus, which first reported about the letter, claimed the suspect had tattoos commonly worn by Russian mobsters.

Rival weekly Der Spiegel and investigative website Bellingcat reported separately last week that the suspect's passport indicated ties to Russian intelligence.

Russia has vehemently denied involvement in the killing.

A spokesman for Germany's Interior Ministry, Bjoern

Gruenewald, said the country's security services were aware of Khangoshvili, but declined to elaborate citing privacy reasons and the ongoing investigation. The Berlin prosecutors' office said it was investigating the background to the killing but likewise declined to comment on media reports.

In a rare step, Berlin police published a photograph of the suspect and called for anyone who saw the man in the days before the killing, knew where he stayed or knew him personally to come forward. □



This photo provided by the Berlin Police Department on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, shows a 48-year-old Russian man arrested shortly after the fatal shooting of a 40-year-old Georgian last month.

Associated Press

Iran gives new knock to nuclear deal but it's not yet broken

By **ELAINE GANLEY**
NINIEK KARMINI
NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to stitch together a deal with Iran to stop the 2015 nuclear accord from collapsing was hanging by threads Friday — but not yet broken, despite Tehran's announced plans to step farther back from its international commitments.

Iran was poised to begin work on advanced centrifuges that will enrich uranium faster with no solution from Europe to provide a way to revive the deal ahead of the Friday deadline — the third incremental breach of the accord.

Europe called on Iran to pull back from the slippery slope that could undo the accord completely. It began falling apart last year after President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the deal followed by escalated U.S. sanctions on Tehran that have choked off Iran's ability to sell its crude oil abroad, a crucial source of government revenue, and sent its economy into freefall.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has repeatedly called the sanctions "economic terrorism." Iran views its scaling back on the nuclear accord as "maximum pressure" in the face of the U.S.



Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif talks to journalists during a joint press conference with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi in Jakarta, Indonesia, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

policy of "maximum pressure."

He lashed out at the sanctions again Friday.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. not only doesn't normalize economic relations with Iran, but punishes others for normalizing economic relations with Iran, which is totally unacceptable," Zarif said during a trip to Indonesia.

Macron and Trump spoke by phone about Iran ahead of Friday's deadline set by Tehran for European signatories to come up with a way for Iran to sell its oil, an official at the presidential Elysee Palace said, adding that "the dialogue

is continuing."

Trump plays a key role in a bargain Paris is trying to strike centered on what a French official involved in the negotiations said was Iran's demand for credit lines possibly worth \$15 billion — in tandem with a need for specific U.S. sanctions waivers so Iran can export to traditional clients. Iran's atomic energy agency was to detail its next move, overstepping research and development stipulations of the nuclear accord, at a Saturday news conference, Iranian media said. President Hassan Rouhani has already described it as highly significant.

On Sunday, the acting director general of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Cornel Feruta will meet high-ranking officials in Tehran as part of what it said were its "ongoing interactions" related to its monitoring under the nuclear deal. The IAEA, which issues compliance reports, meets in Vienna on Monday. France remained silent Friday, leaving Europe to voice the concerns over an Iranian third step away from the nuclear deal.

European Commission spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic urged Iran "to reverse all activities that are

inconsistent with its commitments" under the accord and to "refrain from any further measures that undermine the preservation and full implementation of the nuclear deal," she said.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Rainer Breul said Iran was not sending the "right statement" but added, "It's not too late for Iran to leave the slope it has put itself on."

French officials note that, under the nuclear deal, a two-month period lies ahead before Iran takes yet one more step away from compliance should Europe fail to wrangle a deal.

"Let's not create artificial deadlines to measure the success of what we are doing," Macron's top diplomat said this week. He added, however, that if Iran goes ahead with failing to respect another part of the accord, "it will make our work more complicated." The official could not be named due to the sensitive nature of the subject.

Iran has twice before scaled back its commitments, creeping beyond its 3.67%-enrichment limit and its stockpile rules. Using advanced centrifuges speeds up enrichment and Iranian officials already have raised the idea of enriching to 20% — a small technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%. □

Japan to put surname first for Japanese names in English



In this Nov. 29, 2016, file photo, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike speaks at the IOC debriefing meeting in Tokyo.

Associated Press

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will start using the traditional order for Japanese names in English in official documents, with family names first, a switch from the Westernized custom the country adopted more than a century ago, government officials said Friday.

The idea has been floated for years and but some ministers in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative Cabinet recently started pushing for it again. The Cabinet agreed Friday to begin making the change

with government documents, though no timeline was given for its start.

"It is important for all of us in the world to recognize language and cultural diversity as we live in an increasingly globalized society," said Education Minister Masahiko Shibayama, a vocal supporter of the move. "It is significant to make a change per Japanese tradition and write family name before the first name."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said usage guidelines and other details still need to be dis-

cussed further. Suga said he looked forward to going by Suga Yoshihide, as he is known in Japan.

China and South Korea traditionally stick with the surname first order both at home and internationally. But Japan has chosen to be seen more as part of the West rather than Asia.

Japan adopted the first name before surname order for use in English about 150 years ago as a way to modernize and internationalize itself by imitating the Western style, according to the Agency for Cultural Affairs. □

Mugabe dies; liberated Zimbabwe, then held it for 37 years

By FARAI MUTSAKA
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press
HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— Former Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe, an ex-guerrilla chief who took power after independence from white minority rule in 1980 and presided over a country whose early promise was eroded by economic turmoil and allegations of human rights violations, has died in Singapore at the age of 95.

Mugabe enjoyed strong support among the population and even the West soon after taking over as Prime Minister and Zimbabwe's first post-colonial leader. But he was reviled in later years as the economy collapsed and human rights violations increased. His often violent takeover of farms from whites who owned huge tracts of land made him a hated figure in the West and a hero in Africa.

His successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa announced Mugabe's death in a tweet Friday, mourning him as an "icon of liberation."

Singapore's Foreign Ministry later said he died Friday at the Gleneagles Hospital there, saying it was working with Zimbabwe on arrangements for Mugabe's body to be flown home. Mugabe had received medical treatment at the hospital in recent years.

Mugabe's popularity began to rise again after Mnangagwa failed to deliver on promises of economic recovery and appeared to take an even harsher and more repressive stance against critics. Many began to publicly say they missed Mugabe.

Forced to resign amid pressure from the military, his party and the public in November 2017, Mugabe was defiant throughout his long life, railing against the West for what he called its neo-colonialist attitude and urging Africans to take control of their resources — a populist message that was often a hit, even as many nations on the continent shed the strongman model



In this Tuesday, March 18, 2008 file photo, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe addresses party supporters at a rally in Gweru, about 250 km.

and moved toward democracy.

A target of international sanctions over the years, Mugabe nevertheless enjoyed acceptance among peers in Africa who chose not to judge him in the same way as Britain, the United States and other Western detractors.

"They are the ones who say they gave Christianity to Africa," Mugabe said of the West during a visit to South Africa in 2016. "We say: 'We came, we saw and we were conquered.'"

Even as old age took its toll and opposition to his rule increased, he refused to step down until the pressure became unbearable in 2017 as his former allies in the ruling party accused him of grooming his wife, Grace, to take over — ahead of long-serving loyalists such as Mnangagwa, who was fired in November 2017 before returning to take over with the help of the military. Spry in his impeccably tailored suits, Mugabe maintained a schedule of events and international travel during his rule that defied his advancing age, though signs of weariness mounted. He walked with a limp, fell after stepping off a plane in Zimbabwe, read the wrong speech at the opening of parliament, and appeared to be dozing during a news confer-

ence in Japan. However, his longevity and frequently dashed rumors of ill health delighted supporters and infuriated opponents who had sardonically predicted he would live forever.

"Do you want me to punch you to the floor to realize I am still there?" Mugabe told an interviewer from state television who asked him in early 2016 about retirement plans.

After the fighting between black guerrillas and the white rulers of Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was then known, ended, Mugabe reached out to whites. The self-declared Marxist stressed the need for education and built new schools. Tourism and mining flourished, and Zimbabwe was a regional breadbasket.

However, a brutal military campaign waged against an uprising in western Matabeleland province that ended in 1987 augured a bitter turn in Zimbabwe's fortunes. As the years went by, Mugabe was widely accused of hanging onto power through violence and vote fraud, notably in a 2008 election that led to a troubled coalition government after regional mediators intervened.

"I have many degrees in violence," Mugabe once boasted on a campaign trail, raising his fist. "You see this fist, it can smash your

face."

Mugabe was re-elected in 2013 in another ballot marred by alleged irregularities, though he dismissed his critics as sore losers.

Amid the political turmoil, the economy of Zimbabwe, traditionally rich in agriculture and minerals, deteriorated. Factories were closing, unemployment was rising and the country abandoned its currency for the U.S. dollar in 2009 because of hyperinflation.

The economic problems are often traced to the violent seizures of thousands of white-owned farms that began around 2000. Land reform was supposed to take much of the country's most fertile land — owned by about 4,500 white descendants of mainly British and South African colonial-era settlers — and redistribute it to poor blacks. Instead, Mugabe gave prime farms to ruling party leaders, party loyalists, security chiefs, relatives and cronies.

Zimbabwe's main opposition leader, Nelson Chamisa, said he is "mourning with the rest of Africa" over the death of Mugabe in the African tradition of Ubuntu, or humanity toward others, calling him one of Zimbabwe's founding fathers and a freedom fighter.

However, Chamisa, who leads the Movement for Democratic Change, also

acknowledged the pain over "decades of political disputes" surrounding his governance.

"Memories really go to the deficits of governance, goes to the issue of human rights situation in the country, goes to the collapse of systems," he said.

He also said Mugabe's death on foreign soil is a "sad indictment" of the country's economic situation.

On the streets of Harare, the capital, people gathered in small groups Friday and discussed Mugabe.

"I will not shed a tear, not for that cruel man," said Tariro Makena, a street vendor. "All these problems, he started them and people now want us to pretend it never happened."

Others said they missed him. "Things are worse now. Life was not that good but it was never this bad. These people who removed him from power have no clue whatsoever," said Silas Marongo, holding an axe and joining men and women cutting a tree for firewood in suburban Harare. They needed the wood to beat severe electricity shortages that underline the worsening economic situation.

Mugabe was born on Feb. 21, 1924, in Zvimba, 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of the capital of Harare. As a child, he tended his grandfather's cattle and goats, fished for bream in muddy water holes, played football and "boxed a lot," as he recalled later.

Mugabe lacked the easy charisma of Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader and contemporary who became South Africa's first black president in 1994 after reconciling with its former white rulers. But he drew admirers in some quarters for taking a hard line with the West, and he could be disarming despite his sometimes harsh demeanor.

"The gift of politicians is never to stop speaking until the people say, 'Ah, we are tired,'" he said at a 2015 news conference. "You are now tired. I say thank you." □

Mexico declares success in slowing migrant flow

By MARIA VERZA
CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Under threat of crippling U.S. tariffs, Mexico said Friday it had reduced the flow of migrants arriving at its northern border by 56% in three months.

Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said he believes Mexico's strategy of cracking down on illegal migration with a National Guard deployment, investment in Central America and allowing the U.S. to make more asylum seekers wait in Mexico is enough to avert President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on all Mexican imports.

Ebrard is scheduled to meet with U.S. officials Tuesday at the White House to review the progress.

"We're showing that the strategy that Mexico put forward has been successful," Ebrard said. "I don't expect a tariff threat Tuesday because it wouldn't make sense."

Using U.S. Customs and Border Protection data, Ebrard said the number of migrants apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border in August was 63,989, down from 144,266 in May. Ebrard's numbers include those who presented themselves at U.S. ports of entry and were deemed inadmissible.

Mexico has reinforced security on its porous southern border and set up checkpoints on highways leading



In this June 5, 2019 file photo, Mexican authorities stop a migrant caravan that had earlier crossed the Mexico - Guatemala border, near Metapa, Chiapas state, Mexico.

north, deploying 21,600 police and troops across the nation. Ebrard said there had been seven formal complaints of human rights violations involving the National Guard, a relatively low number which he saw as another sign of success. The enforcement has been paired with an incipient economic development plan. Mexico has agreed with Honduras and El Salvador to expand a tree planting program that aims to keep farmers on their land through direct payments and provide them with income-generating fruit and timber trees.

Mexico has committed \$60 million to that program and another to create job op-

portunities for youth.

Some 4,300 Central American migrants are working in Mexico's version of that program in the south, Ebrard said.

Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador, a leftist who took office Dec. 1 promising better treatment of migrants, instead has embraced the fight against migrant smuggling. In recent weeks, he has seldom mentioned the U.S. pressure and depicts the crackdown on migrants as a struggle to defend Mexican laws. His administration has taken a tough line against hundreds of African migrants waiting in the southern city of Tapachula for transit visas that Mexico

no longer hands out.

"We will not budge," he said after the Africans protested, "because the recent events in Tapachula aim to make Mexico yield and oblige us to give out certificates so migrants can get into the United States. We cannot do that. It isn't our job."

He said migrant caravans once tolerated by Mexico were the work of human traffickers, and effectively ended them.

"All of these people who traffic with migrants' needs for jobs, safety and welfare, they are committing a crime and they will be punished," López Obrador said last week. "We are already doing this in Mexico, with-

out violating human rights. We are ensuring there isn't anarchy, disorder."

Migrant-rights activists say López Obrador is simply dressing up the fact that he yielded to Trump's pressure tactics.

"Mexico is just trying to comply with the U.S. (demands) and cut down on migration, but it is improvising and violating the law," said Javier Martínez, a lawyer for the Casa del Migrante shelter in the northern city of Saltillo. "We are seeing things we never saw before."

Mexico has raided freight trains that migrants ride north, and pulled thousands off buses and out of the freight compartments of trucks. The government has warned bus and taxi drivers they could lose their permits if they transport migrants.

Activists say that has forced migrants to hike through unpopulated areas to avoid checkpoints, exposing them to greater risk from thieves, muggers and rapists who lie in wait.

Ebrard said Friday that authorities had found 2,186 migrants inside 35 tractor trailers and said that nearly 40% were minors. Ebrard said 357 people had been charged in migrant-smuggling cases.

The Rev. Alejandro Solalinde, who runs a migrant shelter in the southern state of Oaxaca, said Mexico essentially had no choice. □

South America leaders gather to discuss protection of Amazon



Representatives of the Huitoto and Ticuna indigenous communities sit outside the room where leaders of several South American nations that share the Amazon are meeting, in Leticia, on Colombia's Amazon river border with Brazil and Peru, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

By MANUEL RUEDA
Associated Press

LETICIA, Colombia (AP) — Leaders of several South American nations that share the Amazon gathered Friday in Colombia to boost protection of the world's largest rainforest.

But the one-day summit in Leticia — a town on the Amazon River where the borders of Colombia, Peru and Brazil meet — ended with little concrete action and exposed deep ideological and political rifts over sustainable develop-

ment of the world's largest absorber of carbon emissions. While Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno, who was born in the Amazon, offered an emotional, song-filled homage to the diverse plant and animal life with which he was raised, his Brazilian counterpart, Jair Bolsonaro, launched into an attack on first world leaders for allegedly conspiring against the nations' sovereignty over the region. Efforts to jointly protect the Amazon began with the 1978 sign-

ing of a treaty by eight Amazon nations. All of them were represented at the summit with the exception of socialist-run Venezuela, whose exclusion was criticized by Bolivian President Evo Morales, a close ally of the embattled Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro. But cooperation among the countries has stalled even as threats from climate change, unchecked development as well as illegal mining and drug trafficking have increased in the region. □

LOCAL



Happening tonight:

Sip & Spa: The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba surprises with cool event



PALM BEACH — Sip & Spa is a monthly event at the Ritz- Carlton Spa, Aruba where guests will enliven their senses through a combination of tasting mixology, gastronomy and spa experience touches to ultimately balance their wellness in a social setting. Each month there will be a different theme to highlight different products available at their spa as well as beverages of vendors the Ritz-Carlton will partner with.

This unique event is an exclusive and fun way to pamper yourself while also learning different way to focus on wellness. The very first of

these events will take place today, September 7th starting at 6pm to 10pm. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance as there will be limited availability.

The Sip & Spa Theme will be Mystery of Aloe. Upon arrival the guests will receive a passport where they will find the details of their Sip 'n Spa Journey. The evening will start with the first welcome sip of a Milagro Tequila cocktail. The evening will continue with spa experiences alternating with a sip of Milagro cocktail and Hors D'oeuvres highlighting the properties exquisite dining outlets. This is truly an ex-



perience you do not want to miss out on. Tickets are available at The Ritz- Carlton Spa, Aruba. For more information, contact +297 5272525 or email rc.auart.spa@ritzcarlton.com □

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Ana Lucia DelMastro** and her son **Alejandro Romero**.

This family stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



New DCNA office officially opened

KRALENDIJK — The Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Carola Schouten, has officially opened the new Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance office during her working visit to Bonaire, together with Island Governor Edison Rijna. DCNA made use of the opportunity to request urgent attention for the conservation of 'the Kingdom's unique backyard'. The six Dutch Caribbean islands are known for their beautiful and diverse nature, and its conservation has not been sufficiently addressed. The current support from the Netherlands is mainly aimed at the BES islands, but nature knows no borders, according to the DCNA. That is why it is of the utmost importance that the Kingdom supports all six Dutch Caribbean Islands and includes all six islands in nature conservation plans and projects.

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

DCNA is a non-profit foundation that has been working with dedicated nature management organizations on the six Dutch Caribbean islands Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten to protect biodiversity and stimulate sustainable nature conservation. By working together and sharing skills, knowledge and resources, DCNA is able to maintain a solid network and support the entire Dutch Caribbean. DCNA also provides the parks with sustainable financial resources. Opening new office

DCNA is honored that Minister Schouten and Island Governor Rijna recognize the importance of DCNA's regional partnership and that they opened the office on Thursday September 5. The meet and greet with DCNA's employees, the management as well as with DCNA's new director, Mr. Tadzio Bervoets, was very pleasant.

Distress call for support to all islands

The collaboration of the six Dutch Caribbean islands, as part of DCNA, is unique for the Kingdom

according to DCNA's chairman Hellen van der Wal during her speech. That is also why she finds it very regrettable that support coming from the Kingdom makes a separation between the BES islands on one hand and Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten on the other hand. "Every island has its own unique natural habitats, but faces the same challenges to keep them protected. Climate change, deforestation, overfishing, sargassum, construction and the effects of tourism are only a few examples: we're all affected by it. It's vital to work together and learn from each other. It is especially strange that the Kingdom, which connects us, creates a separation when it comes to cross-border problems.

Minister Schouten reacted in an affirming and supporting manner: "Your organization is undeniably pointing to the natural treasures that the Dutch Caribbean harbors, and you're warning us about potential threats, because climate change, modern life and tourism have an alarming impact on these natural habitats. My ministry willingly cooperates with this professional and creative organization. The DCNA is a versatile organization: you do not only improve communication and expertise of the nature parks, but you also do fundraising for specific projects.

Island Governor Edison Rijna reacted by stating as follows: "Our ecosystem, including its coral reefs, is unique in the world. Our joy as Bonaireans is double: we live in it and it contributes to our economy, through tourism. All the more reason to be very careful with it."

Nature knows no borders

After the speech, the book on the Yarari Reserve made by the DCNA and commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, was handed over. The Yarari reserve includes Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eusta-



tius' territorial waters, in which sharks and sea mammals are protected. Just like many other species, sharks and sea mammals do not know borders. To be able to provide effective protection, cooperation with other geographical areas is of great importance. That is why the book offers knowledge on the species of all six Dutch Caribbean islands.

Successful projects

A television program on nature about the results of the 'funds for nature' projects in Bonaire was proudly released as well. These projects, at the behest of the public entity Bonaire and in cooperation with local organizations, were financed by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. By order of the ministry, the DCNA created a television program on nature to, among other things, share the results of coral restoration, reforestation and agriculture projects with the population.

Time to invest in nature and the environment

The DCNA is looking forward to continue its activities from its new office to support and strengthen all six Dutch Caribbean islands' natural parks while they're working to complete the same joint mission: protecting biodiversity and sustainable nature conservation, under as well as above water. In this case, the same rule applies to every island: investing in nature and the environment is not a luxury, but a vital investment in the wellbeing of the inhabitants and the future. □

For the love of the game

ORANJESTAD — Jake Brown loves baseball and to him Aruba is his second home. For the second year Jake has made a special donation to the Xander Bogaerts Dare to Dream Foundation, all this with the purpose to share his love for the game and support local community.

Jenny Brown and her two children Sarah and Jake are from Groton, Massachusetts and have been coming to the island for 15 years consecutively. They have made many friends throughout the years and they manage to stay in touch with them year round. The family loves everything about the island. The weather, the beaches, the many activities like sailing on their friend Tico's catamaran named 'Isabella'. The family does not only come to the island to va-

cation but they always try to give back to the island in any way they can. For the past two years a special donation has been made to a foundation close to their heart. Jake (16), the youngest one of the family, is a baseball fanatic. He loves baseball so much and wanted to share this with the young baseball teams here. Back home he collected baseball equipment from his baseball facility, the Tewksbury Hitting and Wasserman Strength in Nashua, New Hampshire and his high school, Groton/Dunstable Regional High School in Massachusetts. He collected pants and uniform shirts, gloves, catcher's equipment, equipment bags, helmets and batting gloves. He brought all this equipment with him and donated it to the Xander Bogaerts Dare to Dream Founda-



tion, which helps the children on Aruba through baseball. For Jake and his family it's such a heartwarming experience to see the appreciative children receiving the equipment. For them this has been the highlight of their

vacation for the past two years. They also became close friends with the volunteers of the foundation. For this lovely family Aruba is simply their second home and friends have become more like family! □

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Who will become the best bartender of Aruba?

Renaissance Aruba invites you to the Bartenders' Brawl 2019

ORANJESTAD — The fifth edition of the Bartenders' Brawl will be spectacular! Nine bartenders will be battling to become the best bartender of Aruba, celebrating five years of the competition. October 25th will be highlighted by courage and creativity when the bartenders demonstrate their superiority in mixology at the Renaissance festival plaza.



Bartenders of La Cava, Pepia Est., Divino, Manrique Capriles, ATC, TEC and Tropical Bottling will prepare an original mix that will make one of them the most popular bartender of Aruba. Two winners will be chosen; the first one is based on



the people's vote for the winning cocktail and the other winner according to the votes of a jury.

Different 'bites' and cocktails are included when buying the entrance ticket for this chic night at the Festival Plaza. The food is prepared by the culinary team of the Renaissance and will surely complement the cocktails during the Bartenders' Brawl.

Tickets are available at the Navigator's desk at Renaissance Aruba at the price of \$55 per person and includes nine cocktails and cool finger food. There will also be live entertainment. For the last four years this competition has become a complete show. More information can be found on the Facebook page of Renaissance Aruba. Let's get ready to rumble. □

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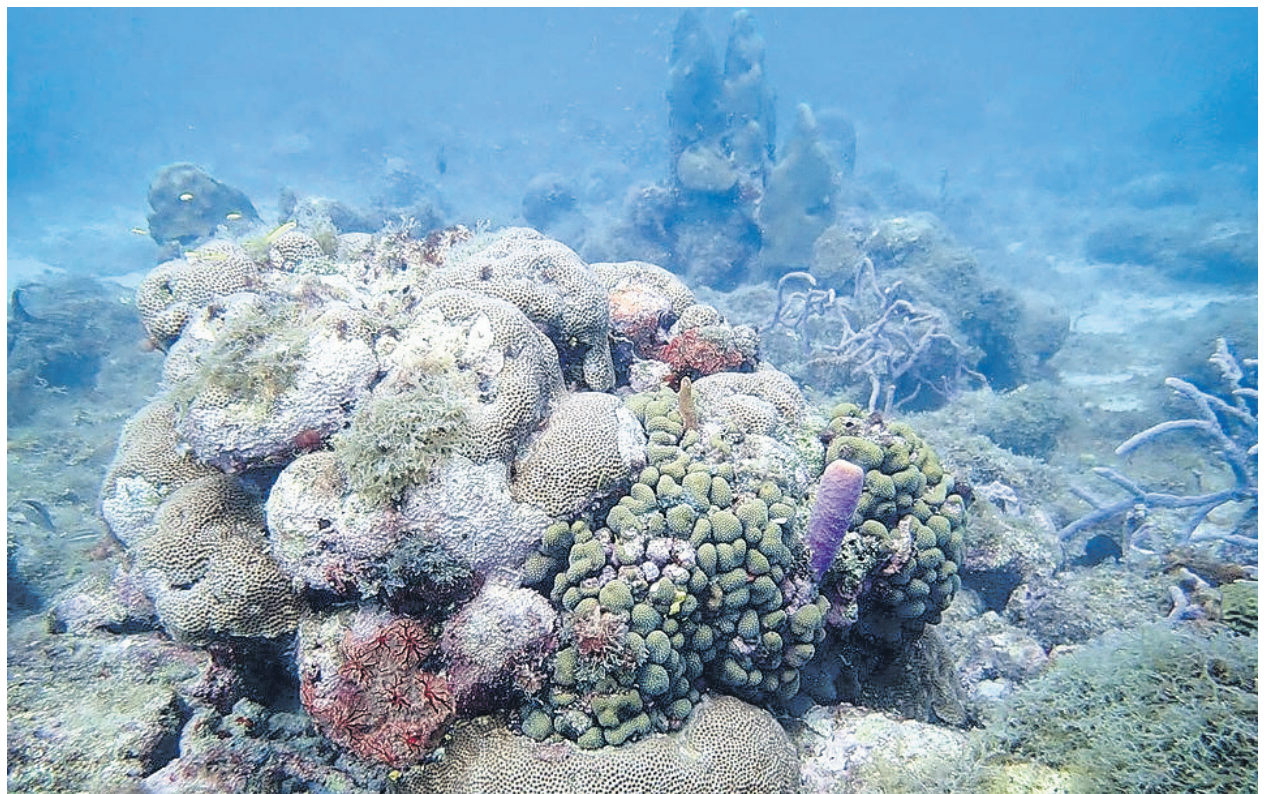
Aruba acts to protect endangered coral reefs

ORANJESTAD — Less than a year after announcing a total ban on the use of single-use plastic, Aruba has intensified its measures to protect its endangered coral reefs. In what is claimed to be “the biggest voluntarism project” on the island over a thousand volunteers - locals and visitors alike – will congregate on the beaches of the Dutch Caribbean Island for the Aruba Reef Care Project on 19 September.

The volunteers efforts to clean both snorkel and dive sites, and beaches, is now supplemented by a coral nursery, funded by Aloe Aruba, which was recently unveiled in Savaneta. Historically, Savaneta was the island's capital up to 1797. Aloe Aruba, which also produces coral-safe sunscreen, is partnering local youth diving group Scubble Bubbles, to help restore the island's coral reefs.

In its effort to save the coral reefs, the nursery will be used to rehabilitate fragmented reef until it becomes sufficiently mature to be transplanted onto the coral reef by Scubble Bubble divers.

In 2017, the island's authority banned the use of all single-use plastic bags, a measure that was extended the following year to include plastic cups, straws and Styrofoam boxes. The ban will be transitioned in until 2020. At the same time, sunscreens with oxybenzone, which damage the coral, will also be banished from the island. Aruba intends to be fossil-free by the year 2020 in its continued efforts to preserve the



island's natural environment and preserve its endangered coral reefs.

Since 1995, the Aruba Reef Care Project has been perhaps the best known as well as largest volunteer environmental initiative on the island, raising awareness of the need to preserve the sea environment. If you are interested in volunteering for the organization, email Castro

Perez at castroperez@gmail.com.

If you can't make the September date, an annual National Coastal Clean-Up Day is carried out each November, during which volunteers make a clean sweep of Aruba beaches. □

Credits: Facebook & website Travel begins at 40

SPORTS



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, reacts after scoring a point against Grigor Dimitrov, of Bulgaria, during the men's singles semifinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

'Lucky, no?' Nadal fights past Berrettini into U.S. Open final

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal found himself trailing in a tight first set against a bigger, younger opponent who was finding ways to cause trouble in their U.S. Open semifinal. Never one to panic, never liable to have a letdown, Nadal hung tough, waited for 24th-seeded Matteo Berrettini to wilt ever so slightly and then pounced. Nadal moved closer to a fourth U.S. Open championship and 19th Grand Slam title overall — one away from Roger Federer's record for men — by pulling away for a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Berrettini under the roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Friday night. The second-seeded Nadal was down 4-0, then 5-2, then 6-4 in the opening tie-breaker before taking the next four points and was on his way.

Continued on Page 18

PACKED UP



Bears' offense struggles in opening loss to Packers

Chicago Bears' Mitchell Trubisky is sacked by Green Bay Packers' Blake Martinez and Adrian Amos during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press
Page 20

U.S. Open final

Continued from Page 17

"You don't want to be in a tiebreak against a player like Matteo. ... I was a little bit lucky, no?" Nadal said. "I survived at that moment and ... after that, the match completely changed."

Sure did. Nadal broke once in the second set and three times in the third, while never facing a single break point in the match.

He will face No. 5 seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia on Sunday. It is Medvedev's first major final, Nadal's 27th. They've played each other once before, the final of the Montreal Masters hard-court tournament in August, and Nadal won 6-3, 6-0.

"He's one of the more solid players on tour," Nadal said. "He is making steps forward every single week." Medvedev advanced earlier Friday by beating Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-3 for his tour-leading 50th win of the season.

The 23-year-old Russian first made a name for himself at the U.S. Open by earning the wrath of spectators. During his on-court interview Friday, Medvedev referenced his "tournament of controversies," which included accumulating \$19,000 in fines and antagonizing booing fans last week, saying he knew it was "not going to be easy with the public."

Medvedev's tennis was a bit scratchy Friday, and like Nadal, he barely avoided dropping the opening set. But he did just enough with his mostly defensive style to get past Dimitrov, who had eliminated Federer in a five-set quarterfinal.

"I do think he was better player in first set. I do think I was kind of lucky to win it," Medvedev said about Dimitrov. "Then the momentum changed completely. I think after, I was playing better than him in the next two sets."

A year ago at this time, Nadal was retiring from his semifinal against Juan Martin del Potro because of knee pain. He's famously had trouble with his body over the years, particularly

when it comes to less-forgiving hard courts, but right now, he sure looks healthy, hale and hungry as ever.

The 33-year-old Spaniard — Federer, it's worth noting just turned 38 — made it to the semifinals at every major this year. Nadal lost in the Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic in January, won a 12th French Open title in June, and lost to Federer in the final four at Wimbledon in July.

Berrettini, 23, had never been to a Grand Slam semifinal but didn't look intimidated early on against Nadal.

A decade apart, this was their first matchup, and so the early stages were as much a chance for Nadal to familiarize himself with the guy as it was for fans who might not know much about Berrettini.

What's obvious is that his strengths are a big serve that tops 130 mph and a forehand that can end points. Less apparent at first glance is Berrettini's touch, which he showed off with about a half-dozen drop shots to claim points in the first set, taking advantage of just how far behind the baseline Nadal stood to return.

As the match progressed, Nadal started going more to Berrettini's backhand, avoiding that furious forehand. So Berrettini adjusted, too, running around his backhand as much as possible to get in position to swing away from his preferred side.

And swing away he did, throwing his barrel-chested, 6-foot-5 (1.95-meter), 198-pound (90-kilogram) frame behind forehands that repeatedly approached 100 mph. Nothing subtle about them. Berrettini is built like a boxer and he often borrows terms from that sport when discussing his matches, such as when he spoke metaphorically about wearing down opponent Gael Monfils with body blows in their exhausting five-set quarterfinal.

The key to the opening set and, indeed, the entire semifinal, was that tie-



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, reacts after winning the first set against Matteo Berrettini, of Italy, during the men's singles semifinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, in New York.

breaker.

Berrettini grabbed a 4-0 lead, then kept getting closer to the finish line. At 6-4, there he stood, needing one point to take the set, as raucous supporters stood and yelled — including the fellow Roman who owns a restaurant on Manhattan's Lower East Side where Berrettini has been going for pasta throughout the tournament.

That, then, is when Nadal needed to dig in, and did. Berrettini? Unaccustomed to these stakes and these moments, he wasn't quite up to the task.

Nadal flicked a forehand passing shot that dipped

enough to make Berrettini's volley try rather tough, and the ball found the net. One set point erased. On the next, Berrettini tried a drop shot, but this one was only so-so and it, too, landed in the net. A second set point was gone, and Berrettini covered his mouth.

The next two points — the last of the set — also went to Nadal via errors by Berrettini, a backhand into the net on a 24-stroke exchange, followed by a forehand that sailed long. Nadal reacted by shouting and pumping his fist repeatedly. Berrettini's jaw dropped. Fans rose and roared.

Berrettini hardly packed it in from there, but Nadal was simply better, grinding away until his foe finally succumbed. After Berrettini managed to save nine break points in a row, Nadal converted his 10th of the match to lead 4-3 in the second set.

Once that set was his, Nadal broke to go up 1-0 in the third. And that, folks, was that.

Soon enough, Nadal was able to move on from this test and start thinking about beating Medvedev — and gaining on Federer. "It means a lot," Nadal said, "to be back where I am today." □

Associated Press

Sparks rout Storm 102-68 to wrap up No. 3 seed

By The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Candace Parker scored 20 points, Nneka Ogwu-mike added 14 points and 10 rebounds and the Los Angeles Sparks wrapped up the No. 3 seed with a 102-68 victory over the Seattle Storm on Thursday night.

The defending champion Storm (17-16) dropped a half-game below Minnesota, but they hold the head-to-head tiebreaker against their first-round opponent. With some help from the Lynx, Seattle can still regain the No. 6 seed and host the one-

game opening round.

Los Angeles took the lead for good when Sydney Wiese's 3-pointer made it 18-15 with 2:11 in the first quarter. The Sparks closed the first half on a 10-0 run to lead 50-35 and led by double digits the rest of the way.

The 34-point victory tied for the second-largest margin in Sparks history. Jewell Loyd and Alysha Clark both reached 200 career 3-pointers for Seattle, the only WNBA players to achieve the milestone in the same game.

DREAM 78, ACES 74

ATLANTA (AP) — Elizabeth Williams had 20 points, eight rebounds and a career-high eight blocks in Atlanta's victory over Las Vegas. The Dream (8-25) took their first lead at 63-62 on Marie Gulich's layup with 5:10 left. Renee Montgomery's 3-pointer made it 68-62 and capped a 9-0 run for Atlanta. A'Ja Wilson made a pair of free throws to pull the Aces (20-12) to 76-74 with 23 seconds left, but Alex Bentley answered with a pair of free throws four seconds later and Las Vegas missed its final three shots. □

Divac leads Class of 2019 into Basketball Hall of Fame

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) —

Jack Sikma used his Basketball Hall of Fame induction speech to make a plea for the NBA to return to Seattle, where he led the SuperSonics to the 1979 NBA title.

It was the only title for the franchise that moved to Oklahoma City in 2008.

"There's a hole in Seattle that needs to be filled," Sikma said to a crowd that included NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and many other league executives. "Speaking for all Sonics fans, it's our greatest hope that the NBA will soon find a pathway to bring basketball back to Seattle. 'It's time.'"

Sikma was joined in the Class of 2019 on Friday night by Vlade Divac, Sidney Moncrief, Paul Westphal, Bobby Jones, Al Attles and Teresa Weatherspoon. Chuck Cooper and Carl Braun were inducted posthumously, and Bill Fitch was unable to attend for health reasons.



Inductee Vlade Divac speaks during the Basketball Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, in Springfield, Mass.

Associated Press

Also honored at Springfield's Symphony Hall were the 1957-59 teams from Tennessee A&I, a historically black school that won three straight NAIA titles a decade before Texas Western fielded the first all-black starting five in the NCAA Tournament.

The Hutcherson Flying Queens from Wayland Baptist — the first school to offer women's basketball scholarships — were also inducted. Sponsored by a local aircraft company, they

won a record 131 consecutive games in the 1950s. Sikma had a large contingent to support him, and they broke into laughter when the video screens showed a picture of him with a blonde bowl cut shortly after he was drafted in 1977. A seven-time All-Star in nine seasons with the Sonics, he also played five years with the Milwaukee Bucks and remains the only center in league history to lead the league in free throw percentage for

a season (.922 in 1987-88). Divac, who won an Olympic silver medal with Yugoslavia and another with Serbia after the country broke apart in a civil war, was one of the NBA's first European stars. Among those he thanked were his former Yugoslav teammate Toni Kukoc, who is Croatian. "The people of the Balkans are like a dysfunctional family. We may fight and argue, but in the end we are family," said Divac, who played eight years with the Los Angeles Lakers and six with the Sacramento Kings. "To me basketball was always about love."

Weatherspoon was presented by Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes and Tina Thompson, who were on the Houston Comets when Weatherspoon hit "The Shot" — a half-court buzzer-beater to give the New York Liberty a victory in Game 2 of the WNBA Finals.

"I know you guys are still salty about that shot, but you got to see it again to-

night," said Weatherspoon, who won an Olympic gold medal in 1988 and also played in Italy and Russia.

"The game has meant so many things to me," she said. "It's been my sanctuary; it's been my safe haven. The game has allowed me to see things I never thought I'd see, meet people I never thought I'd meet."

Cooper, who died in 1984, was a Celtics forward who was the first African-American player drafted by the NBA. He made his debut in 1950 at the same time as Earl Lloyd and Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton.

"The NBA's color barrier was broken, and the game of basketball was forever changed," his son, Chuck Cooper III said.

Cooper's presenters — 10 Hall of Famers that included Bill Russell, Larry Bird, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Julius Erving — were so illustrious that host Ahmad Rashad stopped the ceremony to take a selfie with them. □

Lyles clocks 19.74 to win 200 at rainy Diamond League finals

BRUSSELS (AP) — American sprinter Noah Lyles raced to the 200 meters title at the Diamond League finals on Friday, extending his winning run ahead of the world championships.

A chill Brussels evening was hardly good preparation for Qatar's heat, but steady rain and stomach pains tested Lyles in clocking 19.74 seconds. Only two other men have been faster this season.

"What a chaotic race it was. But I'm glad I could handle this," said Lyles, who was poised in the starting block when rain began falling.

A little legal wind assistance helped carry the gold-medal favorite to within 0.24 of his personal record, set in July in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The defending world champion, Ramil Guliyev of Turkey, was level with Lyles deep into the straight, and was pulled through to his

season-best time of 19.86 as runner-up.

Third-placed Andre de Grasse of Canada clocked 19.87, also his best time of 2019.

"My main goal is to reach the (worlds) podium," said De Grasse, the 2016 Olympic silver medalist. "It's going to be hard to beat Lyles and (Christian) Coleman." Victory on Friday made Lyles the Diamond League season-long champion at 200, adding to the 100 title he won last week in Zurich. It also earned a fourth place in the worlds 200 lineup for the United States.

Lyles is skipping the 100 when the world championships start on Sept. 27 in Doha, leaving teammate Coleman as favorite.

Another American, Michael Norman, is faster this season over 200 than Coleman — timing 19.70 when he edged past Lyles in Rome — but is focusing on the worlds 400.

Norman's victory on Friday in 44.26 seconds was a warmup of sorts, though the 16-degree (60 F) temperature in Belgium's capital city is well below the 30 C (86 F) evenings expected in Qatar.

It suited Dina Asher-Smith in the 100 as she beat two-time Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica in her season-best 10.88 despite a slight headwind.

"Today it was typical British weather," said Asher-Smith, the European champion. "The world championships will be completely different, another climate."

In the triple jump, Christian Taylor's winning leap of 17.85 meters set a record for the Van Damme Memorial meeting, set by Britain's Jonathan Edwards 24 years ago.

Other winners in the last major meeting before the worlds, included 2017 gold medalists Mariya Lasitskene



U.S.' Noah Lyles, left, competes to win Men's 200m during the Diamond League Memorial Van Damme athletics event at the King Baudouin stadium in Brussels, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

in the high jump, at 1.99 meters, and Katerina Stefanidi with her season-best clearance of 4.83 meters in the pole vault.

Danielle Williams won the 100 hurdles in 12.46 and Timothy Cheruiyot cruised to a 1500 victory in 3 minutes, 30.22 seconds.

Sifan Hassan added the Diamond League 5,000 title to the 1,500 she won last week, and Aje Wilson of the U.S. won the 800.

Her time was over two minutes, more than five seconds off Caster Semenya's world-leading time this year. □



Packers' D, Aaron Rodgers beat Bears 10-3 in opener

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Aaron Rodgers doesn't have to lay waste to a defense to enjoy Packers football. He sure had a good time seeing what his guys on the other side of the ball did Thursday night to the archrival Bears.

"Yeah, it was fun to watch," Rodgers said after Green Bay opened the NFL's 100th season with a 10-3 victory over Chicago.

"It's been a long time since I've seen a performance like that.

Obviously, a lot of credit to Mike Pettine and his staff, but to those players, just incredible.

"We didn't do them a whole lot of favors with our performance on offense. I mean every time we needed something a stop, they came up with some really big plays."

It was a defensive battle also marked by sloppy offense and penalties.

A lack of action in the pre-season clearly damaged both offenses, and Rodgers at times looked uncomfortable in the attack designed by new coach Matt LaFleur.

But he is a two-time league MVP, and he hit Jimmy Graham in the second quarter for the only touchdown.

That aggressive Green Bay defense would have made Vince Lombardi proud in the latest edition of the NFL's longest rivalry, which the Packers lead 98-95-6. Green Bay has won 16 of the last 19 regular-season meetings, and Rodgers is 17-5.

Chicago's defense hardly slacked, getting five sacks — tying the most it has had against Rodgers.

But it could do little with the ball and the Packers had five sacks of Mitchell



Green Bay Packers players pose for a picture after an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, in Chicago. The Packers won 10-3.

Trubisky, who never found his stride, and was sacked on Chicago's final offensive play.

Former Bears safety Adrian Amos picked off an end-zone pass into double coverage with 1:58 remaining, the only turnover of the contest.

"It feels real good," Amos said. "It feels great to come back to win and how we did as a defense."

Mason Crosby made a 39-yard field goal in the final period for Green Bay, while defending NFC North champion Chicago got a 38-yarder from Eddy Pineiro.

The NFL opted to go for a history-tinged opener rather than having the Super Bowl champions host the first game.

New England will be at home to Pittsburgh on Sun-

day night, and it's unlikely that game will be so dominated by D.

Or by mistakes.

Each team had 10 penalties, there was a total of 467 yards of only offense, and several drops.

At one point, Chicago had three straight penalties to put it in a first-and-40. No, the Bears didn't convert. Still, take nothing away from either defense. They both controlled the line of scrimmage almost throughout the night, and Trubisky was particularly bothered by it, going 26 of 45 for 228 yards.

"Three points is ridiculous," coach Matt Nagy said. "Any Chicago Bears fan ... should be upset."

Rodgers was 18 for 30 for 203 yards, hardly vintage A-Rod, and certainly unlike his performance in lead-

ing the Packers back from a 20-point hole in the second half of the 2018 opener against the Bears.

Of course, he had all that support Thursday night from the likes of newcomers Preston Smith (1 1/2 sacks), and Za'Darius Smith (a sack), enough to give Green Bay the boost it needed. The opening series couldn't have been uglier for Green Bay.

A run and a pass netted zero yards, then Rodgers was sacked heavily by Roy Robertson-Harris for a 10-yard loss.

Well, maybe it could. Rodgers was sacked again on the next three-and-out and Chicago took over at the Packers 36 after a punt. Chicago had forced 17 yards in losses on those series, and the Packers had minus-12 yards through one

period. Rodgers erased such ineffectiveness quickly at the start of the second quarter, launching a 47-yard completion to Marquez Valdes-Scantling.

Two more completions got the Pack to the 8, and Graham did what most former basketball players turned tight ends should, winning a jump ball in the end zone. By halftime, Green Bay had outgained Chicago 119 yards to 98.

GETTING THEIR KICKS

Bears fans rejoiced in relief on the first score of the season: Pineiro's 38-yard first-quarter field goal.

The last such kick on Soldier Field was Cody Parkey's double-doink off the goalpost and crossbar that sent Chicago home from the wild-card round.

Pineiro, a second-year player from Florida, was an immediate hero in the Windy City.

PASS INTERFERENCE REVIEW

LaFleur made an ill-advised challenge, claiming offensive pass interference on a catch by Chicago's Taylor Gabriel.

He lost in the first such challenge in NFL history after interference calls were added to replay reviews this season.

THIRD-DOWN FAILURES

Chicago was a pitiful 3 for 15 on third downs and 0 for 2 on fourth downs. Green Bay was even worse trying to convert, going 2 for 12 on third downs.

"I am not in panic mode," Nagy said.

"It's just we were uncharacteristic tonight of who we are as an offense," added Trubisky. "We were rolling in practice and it just didn't translate."

UP NEXT:

Packers: Host Minnesota on Sept. 15.

Bears: At Denver on Sept. 15. □

Brian Moran strikes out brother in big league debut

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Brian Moran became the first player in major league history to make his debut while on the mound facing his brother, striking out younger sibling Colin in the Miami Marlins' 10-7 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Thursday night.

Brian (1-0) entered in the fourth inning with the Marlins trailing 5-2. After Bryan Reynolds led off with a groundout, Colin stepped to the plate having doubled in each of his first two at-bats.

The 30-year-old Brian fell behind 3-1 before throwing back-to-back sliders to strike out Colin looking.

The 26-year-old Colin shouted toward the mound on his way back to the dugout.

Moran hit Josh Bell with a pitch and then got Melky Cabrera to fly out in his only inning of work.

The Marlins rallied for four runs in the fifth, allowing Brian to get the win. Colin finished 2 for 4.

They became the first siblings to face each other in a pitcher-batter scenario with one of the brothers making his major league debut, according to the

Elias Sports Bureau.

Dario Agrazal (4-4) surrendered six runs, five earned, in 4 1/3 innings.

CUBS 10, BREWERS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Kyle Schwarber's grand slam off Drew Pomeranz capped a five-run sixth inning for Chicago in the opener of a crucial four-game series with Milwaukee.

The third-place Brewers dropped 7½ games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central and five back of the Cubs for the second wild card. Chicago remained 2½ games behind the Cardinals.

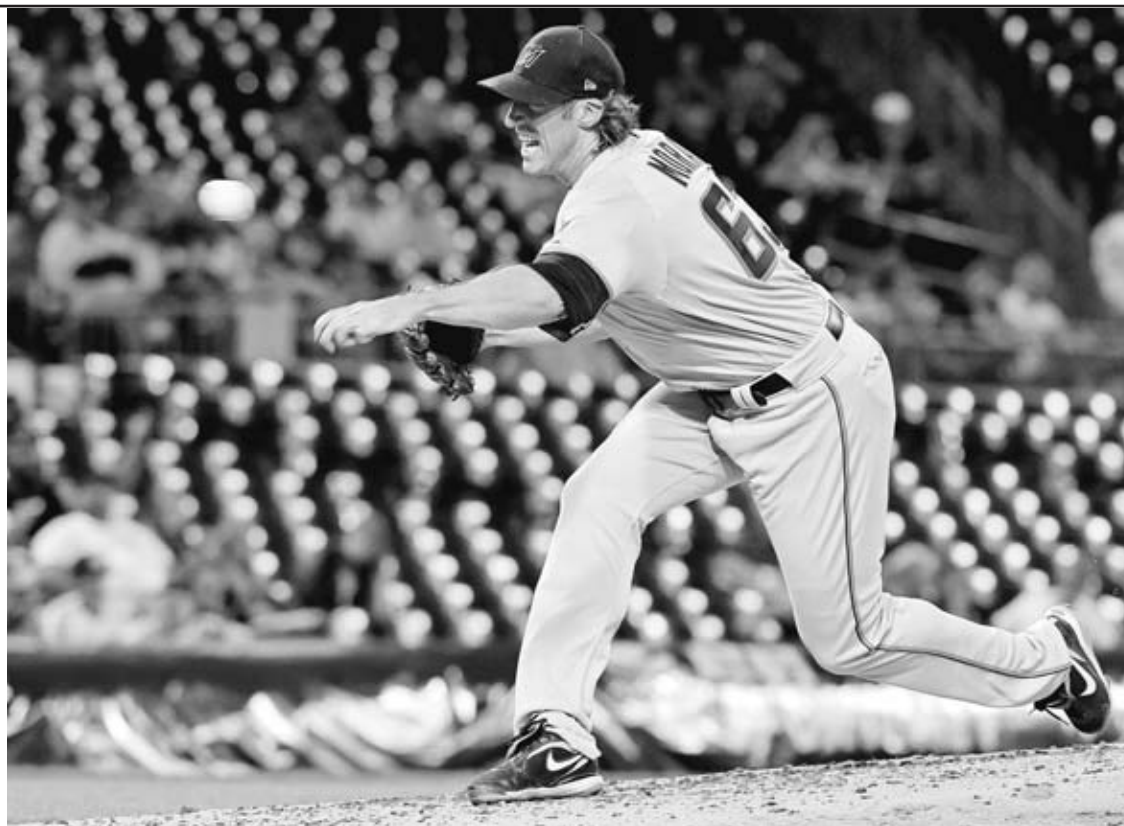
The Cubs loaded the bases with one out in the sixth on two singles and a walk against Matt Albers (5-5), and Anthony Rizzo hit a sacrifice fly off Pomeranz for a 5-4 lead.

Jose Quintana (13-8) allowed four runs and in five innings to improve to 9-1 in his last 12 starts.

CARDINALS 10, GIANTS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Dakota Hudson (15-6) pitched six innings of one-hit ball and hit a two-run single for his first big league RBIs.

Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer in a three-run first for the Cardinals, who won for the sixth time in seven



Miami Marlins pitcher Brian Moran throws his first pitch in his major league debut in the fourth inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

games.

San Francisco has lost five of six and eight of 10, dropping 9½ games back for the NL's second wild card at 67-73.

Génesis Cabrera finished the four-hitter for his first big league save. Logan Webb (1-1) allowed eight runs — seven earned — eight hits and two walks in 2 2/3 innings.

REDS 4, PHILLIES 3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Phillip Ervin homered against Nick Vincent (1-3) leading off the 11th, an opposite-field drive to right that barely eluded Bryce Harper's attempt at a leaping catch,

and Philadelphia dropped four games behind the Cubs.

Matt Bowman (2-0) pitched the 11th for the win. Reds starter Sonny Gray allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

BRAVES 4, NATIONALS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Max Fried (16-4) pitched one-hit ball over seven innings to outduel Stephen Strasburg (16-5) and push Atlanta a step closer to its second straight NL East title,

Mark Melancon made things interesting in the ninth, giving up a two-run homer to Victor Robles and a single to Juan Soto that

brought the potential tying run to the plate. Howie Kendrick hit a game-ending groundout.

The Braves jumped on Strasburg (16-5) for two runs in the first, sparked by Ronald Acuña Jr.'s leadoff single. Acuña added to the lead in the fifth with his 37th homer,

Trailing the Braves by seven games with just over three weeks left, the wild card-leading Nationals likely needed to win at least three of four in SunTrust Park to have any chance to overtake the Braves and avoid the wild-card game. □

MLB, union to discuss opioids testing after Skaggs death

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball and the players' association will discuss the possibility of more widespread testing for opioids following the death of Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs. Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room in the Dallas area July 1 before the start of a series against the Texas Rangers. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said the 27-year-old died after choking on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

A toxicology report said his blood alcohol concentration was 0.122%, well

above Texas's alcohol limit of 0.08% for driving, and 3.8 nanograms per milliliter of fentanyl.

Players on 40-man rosters are tested for drugs of abuse such as opioids only if the player-management joint treatment board finds reasonable cause, if a player has been found to have used or possessed a drug of abuse, or if a player is subjected to testing under a treatment program. All players on 40-man rosters are subject to testing for banned performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids and for banned stimulants.

"For several reasons, including the tragic loss of

a member of our fraternity and other developments happening in the country as a whole, it is appropriate and important to re-examine all of our drug protocols relating to education, treatment and prevention," union head Tony Clark said in a statement Friday.

Minor leaguers not on 40-man rosters, who are not in the players' association, are subject to testing for opioids. The commissioner's office said during the last five years only 12 of 78,000 tests were positive for substances classified as opioids and opiates, a group that includes oxycodone, hydrocodone,



In this June 29, 2019, file photo, Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Tyler Skaggs throws to the Oakland Athletics during a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

codeine, morphine and fentanyl.

For unionized players, testing with penalties for

performance-enhancing drugs started in 2004 and testing for stimulants began two years later. □

Brantley homers in 13th, Astros rally past Mariners 11-9



Houston Astros' Michael Brantley (23) tosses his bat after hitting a game-winning two-run home run against the Seattle Mariners during the 13th inning of a baseball game Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, in Houston.

By The Associated Press
HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Brantley hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 13th inning to give the Houston Astros an 11-9 victory over Seattle in a game they trailed by seven runs. Houston rookie Kyle Tucker hit his first major league homer in the sixth and tied the score 9-all in the 12th with an RBI single. Josh Reddick also went deep and Jose Altuve had a two-run triple for the AL West leaders, who were down 7-0 in the second.

Kyle Seager homered twice, including a tiebreaking shot in the 12th, and rookie Aaron Nola had two home runs and a season-high five RBIs for the Mariners. Matt Wisler (3-4) walked Jake Marisnick leading off the 13th before Brantley launched a drive to right-center. Josh James (5-0) gave up Seager's homer in the 12th but struck out five in two innings for the win.

ATHLETICS 10, ANGELS 6
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Robbie Grossman hit a two-run triple over center fielder Mike Trout as part of a seven-run eighth inning, when Oakland benefited from four consecutive walks, and the Athletics rallied from a 6-1 deficit to complete a three-game sweep. The A's opened a one-game lead over Cleveland for the second AL wild card and are a

half-game behind Tampa Bay for the top wild card. Mike Trout hit 45th home run and tied Pete Alonso of the New York Mets for the major league lead.

A.J. Puk (1-0) retired six batters for his first big league. Puk, one of Oakland's top pitching prospects, had not pitched since Aug. 26.

WHITE SOX 7, INDIANS 1
CLEVELAND (AP) — Reynaldo López (9-12) pitched a one-hitter for his first complete game in 75 career big league starts, and Cleveland lost for the fifth time in seven games. The Indians fell 6½ games behind the AL Central-leading Twins heading into a three-game series at Minnesota. López (9-12) allowed an RBI double in the second to Kevin Plawecki. Wellington Castillo hit a two-run homer in the second off Zach Plesac (7-6), who allowed six runs in five-

plus innings. Adam Engel hit a two-run single in the sixth off Hunter Wood that made it 6-1.

TWINS 2, RED SOX 1
BOSTON (AP) — Left fielder Eddie Rosario threw out Rafael Devers at home plate for the final out, dropping the defending World Series champions 6½ games back for the second AL wild card. Rosario delivered a strike to catcher Jason Castro as Devers attempted to score from first base on a double off the Green Monster by J.D. Martinez. Pinch-hitter Willians Astudillo drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning against Andrew Cashner (11-8) with just the second hit of the night for the Twins, who walked nine times. Minnesota starter Martín Pérez (10-6) allowed one run and two hits in six innings, and Taylor Rogers got his 24th save.

RAYS 6, BLUE JAYS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — All-Star Austin Meadows broke a 4-4 tie against Buddy Boshers (0-3) when he led off the seventh with his 27th homer, then added an RBI double in the eighth against Ryan Tepera. Tampa Bay, seeking its first postseason appearance since 2013, drew just 5,962, the second-smallest crowd this season at Tropicana Field.

Rookie Bo Bichette had his second multi-homer game for the Blue Jays, who have lost four straight and 13 of 16. Toronto is on a pace for 99 losses.

Bichette homered in a 13-pitch at-bat leading off the first and the score 4-4 with a two-run drive in the seventh off Oliver Drake (4-2). Emilio Pagán retired Cavan Biggio on a game-ending flyout with runners at the corners for his 18th save.

TIGERS 6, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jordy Mercer put the Tigers ahead with their third home run of the fourth inning, and Detroit overcame a three-run deficit in a victory for the first time this year.

Kansas City built a 3-0 lead in the second against Matthew Boyd (8-10) when Whit Merrifield hit a two-run single and scored on Adalberto Mondesi's double. Merrifield had four hits, one shy of his career high. Harold Castro started the comeback with an RBI single in the third, and Detroit took a 4-3 lead in the fourth off Glenn Sparkman (3-11) when Brandon Dixon and Dawel Lugo homered on consecutive pitches with one out and Mercer went deep with two outs.

RANGERS 3, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Rookie Kolby Allard (4-0) allowed one run and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings to win his third straight start, and Nick Solak hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off John Means (10-10) in the seventh inning. José Leclerc gave up a leadoff double to Mason Williams in the ninth, walked Rio Ruiz with two outs, then retired Hanser Alberto on a flyout for his 10th save. □

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UAE Emirates' Team Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia, left, celebrates after winning the stage beside La Vuelta red shirt leaders, Jumbo-Visma's Team Primož Roglič of Slovenia at the end of the 13th stage between Bilbao-Los Machucos Monumento Vaca Pasiega, 166.4 km kilometers (103.39 miles), of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race that finishes Los Machucos, near to San Roque de Riomera, northern Spain, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Slovenians Pogacar and Roglic dominate grueling Vuelta stage

LOS MACHUCOS, Spain (AP) — Two Slovenian friends took charge of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, with youngster Tadej Pogacar winning the difficult 13th stage and Primož Roglič crossing the line just behind him to increase his overall lead.

Pogacar and Roglič moved to the front during the grueling final climb at Los Machucos, getting past breakaway leader Pierre Latour with less than two kilometers (one mile) to go and finishing 27 seconds ahead of their closest chasers.

"It was a great day for Slovenian cycling to have the two of us at the front," Roglič said. "We gave our whole until the finish. Tadej is of course a big talent with a big future. He is a good friend of mine, a nice guy, and a rival."

Pogacar passed Roglič with less than one kilometer (half a mile) left and held on for his second stage win in this Vuelta. The 20-year-old rider from UAE Team Emirates also won the ninth stage.

"I can't believe it's my second stage win in my first Grand Tour. I'm extremely happy, so happy I can't even describe it," Pogacar said. "When I heard on the radio nobody was following me and Roglič, I realized it was a good opportunity. It's difficult to go against Roglič, he's really strong. So I'm very happy with what I've done today."

Roglič, a former ski jumper riding with team Jumbo-Visma, opened a gap of 2 minutes, 25 seconds to Spaniard Alejandro Valverde in the general classification. Pogacar moved to third place overall but was more than three minutes behind Roglič.

Valverde was fourth in the 166-kilometer (103-mile) stage, behind Latour and ahead of Movistar teammate Nairo Quintana.

The stage started with the peloton going around the field at Athletic Bilbao's San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao. Riders then faced seven mountain passes.

They will get a relative break on Saturday in a 188-kilometer (117-mile) flat stage that will finish in Oviedo.

Pogacar teammate Fabio Aru didn't race on Friday because of a muscle injury. □



In this Friday, May 3, 2019 file photo, South Africa's Caster Semenya, left, competes to win the gold in the women's 800-meter final during the Diamond League in Doha, Qatar.

Associated Press

Quitting track? Semenya signs for South African soccer team

By **GERALD IMRAY**
AP Sports Writer

Tired, maybe, after 10 years of fighting track authorities, Caster Semenya has signed up to play with a South African soccer team. Currently banned from competing in her preferred event, the two-time Olympic 800-meter champion might now be ready to give up running in favor of a sport where she isn't forced to take hormone-suppressing medication.

Semenya wrote on Twitter on Friday that she had joined Johannesburg-based women's club JWV FC, posting a photo of herself smiling and holding up a soccer shirt. She said in a separate statement she was looking forward to a "new journey."

The club, which is owned by South Africa national women's team captain Janine van Wyk, said Semenya began training with the team this week but she won't be registered to play league games until next year. But that timing is significant because the South African women's soccer season in 2020 will be in action at the same time as the Olympics in Tokyo.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and I appreciate the love and support I already get from the team," the

28-year-old Semenya said. "I am looking forward to this new journey, and hopefully I can contribute as much as I can to the club."

Semenya, who won her first major track title at the world championships in Berlin a decade ago, didn't directly say if she was retiring from track and field. But she has hinted on numerous occasions on social media in recent months she would be willing to give up if she isn't allowed to compete in her favorite event without being forced to take medication to lower her natural testosterone level.

Semenya is barred from defending her 800 title at this month's world championships — and cannot currently compete in any top-level races in distances from 400 meters to one mile — after refusing to follow new IAAF rules requiring her to reduce her testosterone by taking daily contraceptive pills or having surgery. She is appealing against those rules at the Swiss supreme court — her second legal challenge against them — but faced a setback in July when the court provisionally upheld the rules. That ended Semenya's ambitions to defend her title at the worlds in Doha, Qatar. She last ran a competitive race in June.

Semenya lost her first legal appeal at the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport earlier this year, prompting her to go to Switzerland's supreme court.

The latest legal blow might have pushed her to quit. The Swiss Federal Tribunal said Semenya's latest challenge "does not appear with high probability to be well founded," although the court still hasn't given its final verdict.

In the hours after that provisional decision to uphold the testosterone regulations was announced, Semenya wrote on social media: "First chapter of my life done, looking forward to my second chapter."

Her social media pages have also been littered lately with images of soccer balls, uniforms and cleats.

Unlike track, top-level soccer doesn't have any regulations forcing female players to lower naturally high testosterone levels.

The women's soccer league in South Africa is only semi-professional — the country's top players play overseas. But South Africa is bidding to host the next Women's World Cup in 2023.

Usain Bolt played semi-professional soccer in Australia after retiring from track — with limited success. □

As feds loom, states hit Facebook, Google with new probes

By MARCY GORDON and MATT O'BRIEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two groups of states are targeting Facebook and Google in separate antitrust probes, widening the scrutiny of Big Tech beyond sweeping federal and congressional investigations into their market dominance.

Facebook and Google are two of the world's largest and most ubiquitous tech companies. The billions who use their services for making social media posts, uploading videos or searching ads are targeted by the tech companies for their personal data — a prized asset that enhances the companies' power. Regulators are examining whether the companies have used their market power to crimp competition, potentially raising prices and hurting consumers. New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, confirmed the Facebook investigation in a news release Friday, saying the probe by the coalition of states she is leading would focus on Facebook's "dominance in the industry and the potential anticompetitive conduct stemming from that dominance."

A separate group of state attorneys general is announcing Monday in Washington the launch of an



In this Tuesday, April 18, 2017, file photo, a conference worker passes a demo booth at Facebook's annual F8 developer conference, in San Jose, Calif.

investigation into "whether large tech companies have engaged in anticompetitive behavior that stifled competition, restricted access and harmed consumers," an advisory from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said Friday. The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, citing sources they didn't identify, have reported that target will be Google.

Both groups of state attorneys general include Democrats and Republicans. With some 2.4 billion users around the globe and a huge social media presence, Facebook has

sparked outrage with a series of privacy scandals and its use by Russian operatives in the 2016 presidential campaign.

In July, Facebook was hit with a \$5 billion fine from the Federal Trade Commission over privacy violations. "Even the largest social media platform in the world must follow the law and respect consumers," James said. "I am proud to be leading a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general in investigating whether Facebook has stifled competition and put users at risk."

She said the probe would

seek to determine if Facebook endangered consumer data, reduced the quality of consumer choices or increased the price of advertising.

The U.S. Justice Department opened a sweeping antitrust investigation of big tech companies this summer, looking at whether their online platforms have hurt competition, suppressed innovation or otherwise harmed consumers. The Federal Trade Commission has been conducting its own competition probe of Big Tech, as has the House Judiciary subcommittee on antitrust.

Associated Press

The lawmaker leading that investigation, Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., said Friday the states' probe of Facebook is "completely appropriate."

"Facebook has proven time and time again that it cannot be trusted to regulate itself," Cicilline said. "I commend the state attorneys general for launching this investigation, and I look forward to working with them and learning what they uncover."

"This investigation will also serve to put further pressure on federal enforcers, who have a track record of inaction, to protect consumers, competitors and our democracy from the range of dangers that Facebook's extraordinary power presents," Miller said in a statement.

Facebook said in a statement Friday it plans to "work constructively" with the state attorneys general and welcomes a conversation with policymakers about competition.

"People have multiple choices for every one of the services we provide," said Will Castleberry, a vice president of state and local policy. "We understand that if we stop innovating, people can easily leave our platform. This underscores the competition we face, not only in the US but around the globe." □



A staff member holds a Huawei 'Mate20 X 5G' smartphone at the IFA 2019 tech fair in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019.

BERLIN (AP) — Chinese tech giant Huawei unveiled its latest advanced chipset Friday ahead of the upcoming launch of its latest flagship smart-

phone, even as uncertainty hangs over whether the device can use Google's Android.

Huawei's consumer business CEO, Richard Yu,

Huawei debuts latest advanced chipset for smartphone

showed off the Kirin 990 chipset at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin on Friday.

Optimized for new 5G networks and packing 10.3 billion transistors into its fingernail size, the Kirin 990 will be the brain powering the Mate 30 phone.

Huawei, the world's No. 2 smartphone maker, plans a global launch for the phone in Munich, Germany, on Sept. 19.

But with the U.S.-China trade war raging, it's unclear whether the device can use the Android operating system. Sanctions

bar U.S. companies from selling technology to Huawei without government approval, though there are 90-day exemptions for a narrow list of products and services.

Yu revealed little about the Mate 30 as he showcased the company's other products. He touted the new chip's lower energy use and superfast 5G download speed.

Huawei has developed its Kirin line of chips to power some of its phones and reduce reliance on U.S.-based Qualcomm Corp.'s Snapdragon and other

foreign suppliers. It has also built its own operating system, Hongmeng, though executives have said they hope to be able to keep using Android.

The U.S. and China are locked in tech and economic rivalry, with Washington pressuring allies to ban Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of telecom gear, from new 5G networks. Beijing on Friday lambasted the U.S. opposition to Huawei after Vice President Mike Pence this week called on Iceland and other governments to find alternatives. □

Stock climb, keeping S&P 500 on track for a 2nd weekly gain

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Stocks moved higher on Wall Street in afternoon trading Friday, placing the market on track to notch a second straight weekly gain after a wobbly start to the week.

Health care stocks, technology companies and retailers powered much of the buying. Boston Scientific rose 2.7%, Intel gained 1.6% and Home Depot added 1.1%. Utilities lagged. Communication services stocks also fell, weighed down by Facebook, which lost 1.7% after New York's attorney general announced an antitrust investigation into the company.

The market had a muted reaction to new data showing U.S. employers added fewer than expected jobs in August even as the unemployment rate remained near the lowest level in five decades. The Labor Department's report also showed more people entered the workforce last month, and wages rose more than expected.

Traders are scrutinizing economic data for clues about how the economy is weathering the costly trade war between the U.S. and China. Investors worry that the conflict, and the tariffs that each side has imposed on billions of goods, may be dampening global economic growth and threatening to nudge the United States into a recession.

The jobs report was the latest in a mixed batch of economic data that traders weighed this week. The market sold off on Tuesday after expanded tariffs between Washington and



In this Aug. 23, 2019, file photo pedestrians pass the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

Associated Press

Beijing kicked in and new data indicated that U.S. manufacturing contracted in August for the first time in three years.

Other economic reports have been more positive. Data indicating that companies are still hiring at a solid pace and that productivity rose at a healthy rate last quarter helped drive a strong market rally on Thursday.

Investors have also been encouraged this week by news that envoys from the U.S. and China plan to begin another round of trade talks next month.

"It's been a pretty bullish week and I'm a bit surprised the market has gone as far as it has," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading & derivatives at Charles Schwab. "I don't think the trade tariffs issue is going to get resolved any time soon, and I don't see that we're a whole lot further along right now than

where we were a month ago, when the market was significantly lower than it is."

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was up 0.2% as of 2:20 p.m. Eastern time.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 101 points, or 0.4%, to 26,829. The Nasdaq rebounded from an early slide, adding 0.1%.

Major indexes in Europe finished higher. Earlier in the day, China's central bank cut a key interest rate, which helped push Asian markets higher.

JOBS REPORT: Employers added 130,000 jobs last month, short of the 160,000 that economists expected and down from July's growth of 159,000. But average hourly earnings rose 3.2% from a year earlier, more than economists expected.

Strong spending by households has been the economy's driving force, even as manufacturers struggle

under the weight of increased tariffs. Manufacturing slowed last month for the first time in three years, according to a survey by the Institute for Supply Management.

Investors have grown increasingly worried about whether consumer spending can remain strong enough to keep the economy from tipping into a recession for the first time in a decade.

Economists said Friday's jobs report did little to change their forecasts for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates at its meeting in two weeks. Treasury yields dipped following the report, and traders remain nearly certain that the Fed will cut short-term rates by a quarter of a percentage point.

It would be the second such cut since August, following nine increases since December 2015, as the central bank tries to cush-

ion the blow on the economy from the U.S.-China trade war. U.S. manufacturing has already slid due to the tensions, and the worry is that businesses could pull back on their spending next.

A RARE QUIET DAY: Markets have been turbulent in recent weeks as worries about the trade war have waxed and waned. Between Aug. 1 and Thursday, just over half of all trading days saw the S&P 500 swing by more than 1%.

The latest escalation kicked in Sunday, with the U.S. imposing 15% tariffs on \$112 billion of Chinese imports. Washington is planning to hit another \$160 billion on Dec. 15, a move that would extend penalties to almost everything the United States buys from China. Beijing responded by imposing duties of 10% and 5% on a range of American imports.

U.S. tariffs of 25% imposed previously on \$250 billion of Chinese goods are due to rise to 30% on Oct. 1.

The S&P 500 has remained stuck between roughly 2,840 and 2,940 since the start of August, but it broke above that range this week after U.S. and Chinese officials agreed to hold talks in Washington next month. The S&P 500 is at its highest level in five weeks and just 1.6% below its record set on July 26.

YIELDS: Treasury yields fell following the release of the jobs report. The yield on the 10-year Treasury dipped to 1.55% from 1.56% late Thursday. The two-year yield slipped to 1.52% from 1.53%, and the 30-year yield fell to 2.02% from 2.05%. □

Where people found jobs: Business services and governments

By The Associated Press

Job gains accelerated last month in construction, business services and governments — three bright spots that helped offset weaker hiring in other sectors.

Professional and business services led the way, adding 37,000 jobs. This sector includes such categories as computer systems design, consulting, business management and administrative support. Gov-

ernments added 34,000 jobs in August, driven largely by the hiring of temporary workers for the 2020 Census. Excluding all government hiring, businesses added just 96,000 jobs, the fewest since May. Construction rebounded during the month, adding 14,000 positions after having lost 2,000 in July. Mining lost 5,600 jobs in August and has shed 12,000 jobs since May. Losses also accelerated in retail, driven

by general merchandise stores, which include department stores, warehouse clubs and supercenters. Overall, U.S. employers added a modest 130,000 jobs in August. The unemployment rate held steady at 3.7%, the Labor Department said. Industry (change from previous month) August 2019 July 2019 Past 12 months Construction 4,000-2,000 177,000 Manufacturing 3,000 4,000 138,000 Retail

-11,100-5,100 -83,700 Transportation, warehousing -500 -300 121,800 Information (Telecom, publishing) 200 Financial services 15,000 20,000 111,000 Professional services (Accounting, engineering, temp work) 37,000 36,000 449,000 Education and health 32,000 71,000 573,000 Hotels, restaurants, entertainment 12,000 -3,000 317,000 Government 34,000 28,000 97,000. □

Conceptis Sudoku



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			2	5	1			
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/0

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	1	3	7	2	6	9	8	5	4
	8	6	5	1	3	4	7	2	9
	9	4	2	5	7	8	3	1	6
	4	1	8	3	9	2	5	6	7
	7	2	3	6	1	5	4	9	8
	6	5	9	8	4	7	2	3	1
	2	7	6	9	8	3	1	4	5
	3	8	1	4	5	6	9	7	2
	5	9	4	7	2	1	6	8	3

ACROSS

- 1 "Law & Order:
SVU" actor
- 5 Pilfered
- 10 Take a __ at; try
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- 15 Mean
- 16 Big horn
- 17 Extended family
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- 18 Bamboozled
- 20 Clucker
- 21 Phoenix team
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Lane's love
- 25 Mr. Knotts
- 26 Hateful
- 28 Airplane shelter
- 31 Himalayan nation
- 32 Part of a knife
- 34 Building site
- 36 Clothed
- 37 Housetops
- 38 Word attached to
fish or board
- 39 Snack
- 40 Banquet
- 41 Uppsala native
- 42 Hankers
- 44 Uncouth
- 45 " __ Along, Little
Dogies"
- 46 Reddish dye
- 47 Concur
- 50 Spiciness
- 51 Fred Astaire's
dance
- 54 Thinnest
- 57 1,760 yards
- 58 Vienna's nation:
abbr.
- 59 Spend foolishly
- 60 Gambler's woe
- 61 NBA team
- 62 ATM button
- 63 Petril shape

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61					62						63			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/7/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	T	S			S	T	E	P		S	T	O
E	Q	U	A	L		P	I	L	L		C	A	N
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	E	A	G	L	E					M	A	C	
H	A	N	D	E	D			D	E	C	E	I	T
A	L	T	A	R		M	O	U	T	H		M	A
S	L	I	M		S	A	C	K	S		S	P	R
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9/7/19

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| 40 Cooked in oil | 49 Sit for a spell |
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In this image made from video provided by BFMTV, a neighbor of Corinne Fesseau sits inside the tribunal holding her own rooster, during court proceedings in Saint-Pierre-d'Oleron, France, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019.

Associated Press

Cock-a-doodle-doo! French rooster crows over court win

By N. VAUX-MONTAGNY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Maurice the rooster can keep crowing, a French court ruled Thursday, as it rejected a complaint from neighbors who sued over noise nuisance. Maurice's case and several other lawsuits against the sounds of church bells, cow bells, cicadas and the pungent smells from farms have prompted a national debate over how to protect rural culture from the encroachment of expectations that are more associated with urban areas. Maurice's owner, Corinne Fesseau, will be able to keep the rooster on the small island of Oleron, off France's Atlantic coast, the court decided. The rooster owner's lawyer, Julien Papineau, told The Associated Press that Fesseau "is

happy. She cried when I when I told her the court's decision." Maurice's dawn crowing is exasperating Fesseau's neighbors, a retired couple who moved to the island two years ago. They asked the court to make the animal move farther away, or shut up. Instead, the judge in the southwest city of Rochefort ordered them to pay 1,000 euros (\$1,005) in damages to Fesseau for reputational harm, plus court costs. "That made my clients feel very bad," their lawyer Vincent Huberdeau said. He said Fesseau intentionally put her chicken coop close to her neighbors' window and then turned Maurice into a cause celebre for rural traditions, and that the judge went too far in punishing the plaintiffs instead. □

Classifieds



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Some 9/11 firefighters may have higher heart risks now

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Firefighters who arrived early or spent more time at the World Trade Center site after the 9/11 attacks seem to have a modestly higher risk of developing heart problems than those who came later or stayed less, doctors reported Friday. The research might have implications for any efforts to expand the list of health problems eligible for payment from a victim compensation fund.

The study has some big limitations and can't prove that dust or anything else about the disaster caused increased heart risks. It also doesn't compare the New York firefighters to the general population or to other responders such as paramedics or construction workers.

But it does suggest that working at the site raised risk for some firefighters more than others. Those who arrived by noon that day had a 44% greater chance of suffering a heart problem in the years since the attack compared to firefighters who came hours or days later.

Risk was 33% higher for those who worked there during six or more months versus less time.

That may sound large but heart problems were fairly uncommon — only about 5% of these firefighters developed one.

"This is a modest increase, not an epidemic," said one study leader, Dr. David Prezant, chief medical officer of the Fire Department of the City of New York. How-

ever, "this risk increases over time; it doesn't disappear." Results of the federally funded study were published in the journal JAMA Network Open.

It tracked the health of 9,796 male firefighters through 2017 — 16 years after the collapse of the twin towers exposed many to a cloud of thick dust and particles from fires that burned for days. Female firefighters were excluded because there were only 25 and their heart risks may differ.

Medical records were available for years before the attacks, so researchers could consider high blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking and other factors.

They documented 489 heart problems since the disaster, including 120 heart attacks and roughly 300 procedures or surgeries for clogged arteries. Risks were higher among the 1,600 firefighters who arrived at the site by noon on Sept. 11, 2001, and among the 2,400 who worked there during six months or more.

There are good records on arrival times but less on duration at the site, making that result less reliable. Being counted as having worked one month could be one day during that month or 30 days.

Judith Graber, a researcher at Rutgers School of Public Health who has studied other 9/11 responders, called the research "very well conducted" and said "the important thing is the accumulation of evidence" suggesting increased risk.

Prezant said some other



In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, firefighters work beneath the destroyed mullions, the vertical struts which once faced the outer walls of the World Trade Center towers, after a terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York.

Associated Press

studies found signs suggesting a greater risk of heart problems, which are not covered now by the program that treats responders or the victim compensation fund. He said administrators will need more information to decide whether to in-

clude those conditions for any groups, such as firefighters who responded early.

"This adds to the evidence but it doesn't guarantee coverage," Prezant said.

Dr. Nieca Goldberg, a cardiologist at NYU Langone

Health and an American Heart Association spokeswoman, said 9/11 responders must stay alert for possible problems.

"Everyone needs to know potential symptoms of a heart attack so they can get rapid care," she said. □

California bans fur trapping for recreation, commerce

By ADAM BEAM
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California on Wednesday became the first state to ban commercial fur trapping, ending the practice nearly 200 years after animals like beavers and otters introduced the American West to international trade.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said Wednesday he had signed a bill into law making it illegal to trap animals for the purposes of recreation or to sell their fur. It is still legal to trap animals for other purposes, including pest control and public health.

Before the gold rush put California on the map, it was fur traders who first flocked to then far-flung Mexican territory in search of the area's plentiful population of beavers, minks and badgers. The so-called fur rush made fur trappers a rec-



In this May 29, 2019 file photo, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego speaks during the Assembly session in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

ognizable symbol of the Old West.

But in recent years, California licenses for fur trappers have declined considerably. In 2018, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said it sold 133 licenses, leading to the harvest of 1,568 animals and the sale of 1,241 pelts. A legislative analysis of the bill noted most furs are sold outside

of California, with data suggesting there have been no fur sales in the state for the past three years.

Meanwhile, the state has issued about 500 trapping licenses a year for pest control and other uses. People who trap animals for those purposes are not required to report how many animals they capture. □



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Queer style kicks off NY Fashion Week with inclusive show

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In celebration of gender-fluid fashion and inclusion of all kinds, the queer-style digital magazine dapperQ threw a runway party at the start of New York Fashion Week, filling the Beaux-Arts Court of the Brooklyn Museum with invited guests and nearly 2,000 members of the public.

It was the sixth annual Queer Runway Show at the museum for dapperQ, which uses the rallying cry of "ungendering fashion." Marking its 10th year in business, the site enlisted 10 brands Thursday night to dress an array of models of all colors, ages and sizes, large and small, on the gender binary and off.

One model used a wheelchair and another a single crutch. Professional trans models strutted and camped alongside YouTube and Instagram influencers. Zach Barack, the openly trans actor who appeared in the recent blockbuster "Spider-Man: Far from Home," was among the walkers.

And the joyous crowd ate it up, tossing beach balls into the air surrounded by European paintings on the



The Claire Fleury collection is modeled during the dapperQ fashion show at the Brooklyn Museum on Thursday Sept. 5, 2019, in New York.

walls as upbeat music filled the space. Models showed off underwear sets from sponsor TomboyX and colorful caftans, sharply tailored suits, shorts outfits and eveningwear from other brands, including Sharpe Suiting, Landeros New York, Halz, Stuzo and the Australia-based Shane Ave. Attendee Suhaly Bautista-Carolina called it an important evening for the LGBTQ community and the fashion industry as a whole.

"It celebrates the queer community within fashion week," Bautista-Carolina said. "Fashion week is such a celebratory moment in New York and to be included in this moment is just a very beautiful and important thing." The models had a blast as well, earning cheers from the jubilant crowd. B. Hawkes Snipes, who played a runway contestant on the FX series "Pose," warmed up the room from

the runway at the start of the show wearing a flowing bright red gown.

Hester Sunshine of the revived "Project Runway" looked on from the front row.

"It's really cool that this is happening," said Sunshine, who came in second on the show's first season. "The LGBTQ community has been such a big part of fashion since the beginning so it's really nice to be recognized as its own pres-

ence." Barack said he has "never really done fashion stuff" but appreciated the chance to help celebrate "queer bodies and all the intersections that they lie in and all the places they sit. I'm really excited to be a part of it."

Acceptance "can't happen fast enough," Barack said.

"All bodies deserve a place on the runway."

Anita dolce Vita, the publisher of dapperQ and the executive producer of the show, said "queer fashion to me and in our community is fashion for everyone," no matter your sexual orientation, gender identity or gender presentation.

The show "really breaks down and dismantles the binaries that we often see on traditional New York Fashion Week runways," she added.

With more transfemmes on the covers of magazines and a growing popularity for "androgyny" in fashion, progress has been made in the mainstream industry, dolce Vita said, but the way queer fashion is interpreted remains filtered "very much through the lens of heteronormativity," with white, tall and skinny among the defaults. □

The Highwomen flip country narrative with new album

By RAGAN CLARK

Associated Press

The Highwomen, "The Highwomen" (Low Country Sound/Elektra Records) Throughout history, certain narratives have been silenced — those of women, queer persons and persons of color. And while nothing can right the wrongs of the past, there is some justice in telling those stories. That is the intention throughout in The Highwomen's self-titled debut album. The four-some, comprised of Grammy Award-winning artist Brandi Carlile, "The Middle" vocalist Maren Morris, songwriter Natalie Hemby and singer/violinist Amanda Shires, have taken back the country music genre to shed light on perspectives that were missed in

songs past. The 12-track LP transports you to the world of classic country, recalling artists such as Dolly Parton and Tammy Wynette. But instead of taking stances such as Wynette's in "Stand by Your Man," The Highwomen bring a more nuanced side to the conversation.

In the title track, stories of the deceased ring out — an immigrant from Honduras who passed away during her journey, a healer hung in Salem after being accused of being a witch, a Freedom Rider who was killed on her journey bound for Mississippi, a woman preacher who was told she shouldn't teach. The stories are told in first-person by the women, with the added help of English artist Yola

and Grammy-winning Sheryl Crow. Shires' crying violin brings texture throughout. "If She Ever Leaves Me" gives voice to the queer perspective. Instead of reaffirming the male gaze, the song gently teases the man's intent, as Carlile_herself married to a woman_sings to a man, "by the third drink you'll find out she's mine." While the album certainly seeks to redefine women's roles within the genre, it does so delicately. There is no rejection of motherhood, but instead the complexity is highlighted. In "My Name Can't Be Mama," The Highwomen recognize days (like the morning-after hangover) when they need a break from being motherly. In "Redesign-



This cover image released by Low Country Sound/Elektra Records shows the self-titled album by The Highwomen.

Associated Press

ing Women," the group emphasizes their varying parts— "Runnin' the world while we're cleanin' up the

kitchen/ Makin' bank, shakin' hands, drivin' 80/ Tryin' to get home just to feed the baby." □



This image released by Music Box Films shows Kevin Guthrie, left, and Sheila Hancock in a scene from "Edie."

Associated Press

Woman tackles a mountain in the moving film 'Edie'

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

In the northwest of Scotland, there stands a glacier-carved mountain called Suilven. Climbing it is not for the timid. But that's not a word that describes the unusual heroine determined to conquer Suilven in the film "Edie."

Edith Moore — everyone calls her Edie — is no ordinary climber. She's 83 and has been sedentary for most of that time. That mountain, though, looms large in her mind in this quiet, unrushed and moving tale of age and will.

Director Simon Hunter spends as much time focusing on the crags of the glorious mountain as the ones on Edie's face, making it sometimes seem as if the Scottish Tourism Board and AARP teamed up to make a movie.

Edie, lovingly portrayed by the brilliant Sheila Hancock, is a bitter and stubborn woman when we first meet her. She's been taking care of her ill and controlling husband for decades, nursing a long-held dream to climb Suilven. (Her last name is a

clue: She wants more). His death liberates her, sending her to the Scottish Highlands, finally.

"I've lived a whole life and most of it I would change if I could," she says. "I've wasted so much time doing nothing. I can't give this up now."

No one she encounters thinks climbing the mountain is a good idea for a woman in her 80s who sometimes has a hard time opening car doors, except for the young co-owner of a local camping shop, Jonny (a soulful Kevin Guthrie). Edie is laughed at by the locals or considered an easy mark, but Jonny and Edie bond despite their age gap. He feels trapped in his life, too.

Together, they get Edie ready for the tough, three-day climb. There are setbacks — "Leave me alone. I'm geriatric," she jokes — and cool new gear to buy. (Edie is a little flummoxed by modern climbing jackets. "It's got holes in it," she complains.

"Yeah," replies Jonny. "For your thumbs.")

As far as the plot goes,

that's pretty much it: Older woman attempts to scale a mountain. Hancock fills in so much of the spare script with her quiet control, her expressive face and eyes. When she finally laughs, you feel it.

It might seem flimsy but there's so much here, including exploring ideas of fulfillment, regret and taking a chance. Plus, it's refreshing to have a film heroine with white hair and wrinkles. When was the last time we saw an 80-plus woman in a film in a bubble bath drinking wine?

The screenplay by Elizabeth O'Halloran (from a story by Edward Lynden-Bell) doesn't wrap up everything in a bow at the end — it actually just sort of ends, abruptly — and Debbie Wiseman's eager and overemotional score sometimes undermines the actors' more quiet work. But the uplifting "Edie" is worthy of your time, mostly thanks to Hancock and Scotland's natural beauty.

"Edie," a Music Box Films release, is unrated. Running time: 102 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

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This Aug. 29, 2019 file photo shows actress Scarlett Johansson at the photo call for the film 'Marriage Story' at the 76th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

Associated Press

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Scarlett Johansson says she's standing by Woody Allen because, "I believe him."

Much of Hollywood has distanced itself from the

Scarlett Johansson stands by Woody Allen: 'I believe him'

filmmaker since the MeToo movement prompted a re-examination of child sexual abuse allegations from his now-grown daughter, Dylan. Michael Caine, Timothee Chalamet and Greta Gerwig are among the actors who have publicly expressed regret over working with him.

"I love Woody," Johansson told The Hollywood Reporter in an interview released on Wednesday. "I believe him, and I would work with him anytime."

Allen helped boost Johansson to the A-list. He directed her in "Match Point," "Scoop" and "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." She said she has spoken to Allen about the accusations and he maintains his inno-

cence. He has never been criminally charged.

"It's hard because it's a time where people are very fired up, and understandably," she said. "Things needed to be stirred up, and so people have a lot of passion and a lot of strong feelings and are angry, and rightfully so. It's an intense time."

Johansson said she has had numerous conversations with Allen about his past.

"I have been very direct with him, and he's very direct with me," she said.

Allen has yet to find a U.S. distributor for his films since Amazon pulled his deal last year. Allen has filed a \$68 million lawsuit against Amazon. □

Tamron Hall's faith in herself pays off with new show, life

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Tamron Hall decided to leave NBC after the network gave her prime "Today" co-hosting slot to Megyn Kelly, the journalist threw herself a party — a pity party.

That included plenty of tears and a bit of feeling sorry for herself— to the point that "my mother said to me, 'You can always come back to your room here,' and I'm like, 'Mom that's not in the plan!'"

She didn't have a specific plan when she left in 2017. All she had was faith that something bigger had to be on the horizon.

"I leaned on my mom, and my mother has the saying, 'God didn't bring me this far to let you go.'"

And so at some point I could not just keep regurgitating the line leap of faith — I had to believe it," she recalled, laughing, in a recent interview.

"I've got to believe in something, so why not believe in myself?"

That belief has paid off with amazing dividends for Hall, who not only now has a husband and a 4-month-old son Moses, but her own eponymous show that will debut across the nation on Monday.

"She loses her job, her dream job of her life, and at that moment, she's what, 45, 46? She doesn't have a job, she doesn't have the kid she thought she was going to have, she doesn't have the husband she thought she was going to have," says Bill Geddie, "The View" creator who came out of retirement to be executive producer on "Tamron Hall" with Hall.

"Instead she rebuilds herself just through force of will . and everything comes together in 2019. So, it's kind of an amazing story, one you don't see a lot, and a lot of people relate to it."

Hall was hosting the successful third hour of the "Today" show with Al Roker when NBC decided to make room for Kelly; Hall decided to opt out of her contract instead of tak-



This Aug. 8, 2019 photo shows former NBC "Today" show co-host, Tamron Hall, posing for a portrait at Ruby's Vintage Harlem in New York to promote her self-titled syndicated talk show, premiering Sept. 9.

ing a lesser role. Kelly later imploded in the slot after making racist comments.

"Tamron Hall" will enter an already crowded talk space when it debuts in syndication, including a new entry from Kelly Clarkson, whose talk show bows the same day.

Hall, 48, is not concerned though, because what she thinks "Tamron Hall" will provide is a unique factor — herself.

"At one point I was on four networks at the same time. I was doing MSNBC, the 'Today' show, ID (Investigation Discovery network) and TLC, coupled with Bear Grylls and regularly hosting the Macy's Fourth of July. So at any given time, people know me from six different, versions of my career," she said, while enjoying a glass of wine while sitting at the Harlem restaurant Ruby's Vintage.

"And we thought, it's a range of an audience. Let's bring all of those people into one location."

To that end, "Tamron Hall" might focus on a newsy topic one day, and fashion the next.

Another show could focus on motherhood. Perhaps dating and relationships. Or crime, which speaks to Hall's work on ID and her personal experience from being the sister of a murder victim.

"The beauty about the show is that it's not about one lane, it's a reflection of who she is in her entirety," said co-executive producer Talia Parkinson-Jones, a veteran of the Wendy Williams show. "We know exactly what she wants, which is to inspire people." Don't expect a show with lot of shouting about politics. Says Geddie: "I've had enough of that, and I'd like to do something different now."

It also won't be heavy on celebrity guests.

"We both are from the middle of the country, I'm from Oklahoma, she's from Texas," Geddie said. "I think both of us are aware that most of television is New York talking to Los Angeles. We find that most of television talks past or through the middle of the country, and we hope to change that."

Though she lives in Harlem and has been a New Yorker for years, there's a universal appeal that Hall enjoys that even she didn't realize until her time off, as she traveled the country speaking at events.

"I'll never forget, we were in Houston, right after I had left and there were these couples who happened to be white, and it was the husbands (who said), 'TEAM TAMRON! TEAM TAMRON!'" she said, laughing.

"That's what also I think Disney and our partners recognized too, that we were seeing this cross-section of people saying, 'When are you coming back?'"

Hall's comeback might have come sooner had it not been for the Harvey Weinstein scandal. She had entered into a partnership with the Weinstein company before the sexual misconduct scandal involving Weinstein broke and the #MeToo era gave way. It was another setback.

"I couldn't believe that, but at the same time I felt so guilty thinking about my career, and then thinking about the allegations that

the women were making . I'm sitting there going like, 'I can't be thinking about myself,' she said.

"From the first words out there, I couldn't do that. I wasn't raised that way. . I just said maybe that wasn't meant (to be)."

But her TV destiny was set, and soon, Disney came calling, and her TV show was put into motion.

Unbeknownst to most involved with the show, Hall was also working on another project — having a baby with her husband, music executive Steve Greener, whom she married earlier this year.

Hall went through IVF to conceive and recalls getting shots to prepare for the procedure as she was crisscrossing the country while shooting "Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall."

She laughed as she recalled getting a shot from her celebrity hairstylist Johnny Wright while in the back of an Uber.

It was a process Hall had been through several times in the past, unsuccessfully. Though some women might have postponed the process during such a busy time, Hall had learned through past experience that it didn't really matter.

"Both (the show and the baby) were so out of my control and that was the similarity," she said. "I can only put so much into both of those."

Now that both have come to fruition, she finds herself doing the working mother juggle and relishing the opportunity.

Tears came to her eyes as she recalled having left her son for a recent trip and returning home to find him sound asleep as her mother watched over him.

"I took that as, 'Mom, 'I'm safe, I'm good, I'm going to sleep restful right here, right now, you go do it Mommy, you go get it, and that's been satisfying for me as a working mom, because there's been a lot of real guilt,'" she said.

She recalled her own mother, a single mom at 19, working multiple jobs to provide for her children. □



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